Crime & Social Control
Crime Throughout the World

- There is no country without crime
- Most countries have the same components in their criminal justice systems: police, courts, and prisons
- Worldwide, adult males make up the largest category of crime suspects
- In all countries theft is the most common crime committed and violent crime is a relatively rare event
Transnational Crimes

- Organized criminal activity across one or more national borders
- Examples: Russian ruble, precious metals, arms are smuggled out of the country
- Chinese Triads operate rings of prostitution, drugs, and other organized crime
- Children are trafficked through Canada and Mexico for child pornography
Crime

- An act, or the omission of an act, that is a violation of a federal, state, or local criminal law for which the state can apply sanctions

Crime Rate

The number of crimes committed per 100,000 population
Clearance Rate

- The percentage of crimes in which an arrest and official charge have been made and the case has been turned over to the courts
Four Measures of Serious Violent Crime

- Total violent crime
- Victimization reported to the police
- Crimes recorded by the police
- Arrests for violent crime

Year:
- 1973
- 1978
- 1983
- 1988
- 1993
- 1998
- 2005

Offenses in millions:
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
Major Types of Crime Statistics

- Official statistics
- Victimization surveys
- Self-report offender surveys

Problems With Official Statistics

- Many crimes are not reported
- Some reported crimes are not recorded by police
- Some rates may be exaggerated
Strain Theory

- People adapt to inconsistency between means and goals in society
- Methods of adaptation: conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism and rebellion

Robert K. Merton's Deviance Typology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Goals</th>
<th>Institutionalized Means</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>accept</td>
<td>CONFORMITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reject</td>
<td>INNOVATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reject</td>
<td>RITUALISM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reject</td>
<td>RETREATISM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

new goals
new means

REBELLION
# Merton’s Strain Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Adaptation</th>
<th>Seeks Culturally Defined Goals?</th>
<th>Uses Structurally Defined Means to Achieve Them?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conformity</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Merton’s Strain Theory

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ritualism</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreatism</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebellion</td>
<td>No, seeks to replace</td>
<td>No, seeks to replace</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Control Theory

- Social bonds constrain some individuals from violating social norms:
  - Attachment to significant others
  - Commitment to conventional goals
  - Involvement in conventional activities
  - Belief in the moral standards of society
Subcultural Theories

- Certain groups or subcultures in society have values and attitudes conducive to violence
- Members of these subcultures adopt the crime-promoting attitudes of the group
Conflict Perspective

- Social inequality leads to crimes as means of economic survival
- Those in power define what is criminal
- Law enforcement penalizes those without power and benefits those with power
- People of color are overrepresented in prisons
- Cultural definition of women as property contributes to high rates of female involvement in prostitution, drug abuse, and petty theft
- In 2005 there were 85,000 arrests for prostitution and commercial vice in the United States
Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
Labeling Theory

- Being labeled deviant leads to further deviant behavior:
  - The labeled person is denied opportunities to engage in nondeviant behavior
  - The labeled person adopts a deviant self-concept and acts accordingly
Primary and Secondary Deviance

- Primary deviance is deviant behavior committed before a person is caught and labeled an offender.
- Secondary deviance is deviance that results from being caught and labeled.

Figure 7.1 The deviant career
Types Of Crime

- Index offenses
- Vice crime
- Organized crime
- White-collar crime
- Computer crime
- Juvenile delinquency
## Index Crime Rates, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violent Crime</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>% Change in Percentage Rate</th>
<th>Rate (2004-2005)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>-13</td>
<td>62.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcible Rape</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>-32</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>147.6</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>283.8</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>44.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Index Crime Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Crime</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>% Change in Percentage Rate</th>
<th>Rate (2004-2005)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>722.5</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny/theft</td>
<td>2,177.8</td>
<td>-1.3</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>363.3</td>
<td>-8.8</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>-2.1</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The FBI definition of rape contains three elements: sexual penetration, force or the threat of force, and non-consent of the victim.

In 2007, 90,427 forcible rapes were reported in the United States, a slight decrease from the previous year.
Acquaintance Rapes

- As much as 80% of all rapes are committed by someone the victim knows.
- Although acquaintance rapes are the most likely to occur, they are the least likely to be reported and the most difficult to prosecute.
Vice Crimes

- Illegal activities that have no complaining party and are often called victimless crimes
- Include using illegal drugs, engaging in or soliciting prostitution, illegal gambling, and pornography
Organized Crime

- Criminal activity conducted by members of a hierarchically arranged structure devoted primarily to making money through illegal means
White Collar Crime

- Crimes committed in course of employment or by corporations in the interest of maximizing profit
- **Occupational** - individuals commit crimes in the course of their employment
- **Corporate** - corporations violate law to maximize profit
- Ken Lay, CEO and founder of Enron, was convicted of 10 counts of fraud and conspiracy on May 25, 2006
- Lay was facing 25–40 years in prison before his death of a heart attack at age 64
- A plethora of other high-powered Wall Street bankers have recently been implicated in white collar crime
Corporate Violence

- The production of unsafe products and the failure of corporations to provide a safe working environment for their employees
# Types of White-Collar Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crimes against consumers</th>
<th>Crimes against employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deceptive advertising</td>
<td>Health and safety violations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antitrust violations</td>
<td>Wage and hour violations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dangerous products</td>
<td>Discriminatory hiring practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturer kickbacks</td>
<td>Illegal labor practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician insurance fraud</td>
<td>Unlawful surveillance practices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Types of White-Collar Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crimes against the public</th>
<th>Crimes against employers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toxic waste disposal</td>
<td>Embezzlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution violations</td>
<td>Pilferage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax fraud</td>
<td>Misappropriation of government funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security violations</td>
<td>Counterfeit production of goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police brutality</td>
<td>Business credit fraud</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Computer Crime

- Any law violation in which a computer is the target or means of criminal activity
- One of the fastest growing crimes in U.S.
- Hacking - unauthorized computer intrusion
- Identity theft - stealing of someone else’s identification to obtain credit
Females who join gangs often do so to win approval from boyfriends who are gang members.

Increasingly, females are forming independent “girl gangs”.

The most common type of female gang member remains, a female auxiliary to a male gang.
Percentage of Arrests by Sex, Age, and Race: 2005
Sex and Crime

- It is a universal truth that women everywhere are less likely to commit crime than men.
- In 2007 males accounted for 75.8% of all arrests, 81.8% of all arrests for violent crime, and 66.6% of all arrests for property crimes.
Age and Crime

- The highest arrest rates are for individuals younger than age 25
- In 2007, 44.4% of all arrests in the U.S. were of people younger than age 25
- Those older than age 65 made up less than 1% of total arrests for the same year
Race, Social Class, and Crime

- African Americans represent 13% of the population, but account for over 39% of violent index offenses and 29.8% of property index offenses.
- Blacks are sent to prison for drug offenses at a rate 6 times higher than the rate for whites.
Racial Profiling

- The law enforcement practice of targeting suspects on the basis of race
Race and Crime: Causally Related

1. Statistics reflect the behaviors and policies of criminal justice actors, so the high rate of arrests, conviction, and incarceration of minorities may reflect bias against minorities.
2. Nonwhites are overrepresented in the lower classes.
3. Criminal justice system contact, higher for nonwhites, may lead to a lower position in the stratification system.
Region and Crime

- Crime rates are higher in metropolitan areas than in nonmetropolitan areas.
- In 2007, the violent crime rate in metropolitan statistical areas was 504 per 100,000 population; in cities in nonmetropolitan statistical areas, it was 395 per 100,000 population; A recent survey by the Police Executive Research Forum found that murder rates have climbed by more than 10% in the nation’s largest cities since 2004.
Economic Costs of Crime: Six Categories

1. Direct losses from crime, such as the destruction of buildings through arson, of private property through vandalism, and of the environment by polluters.
2. Costs associated with the transferring of property.
3. Costs associated with criminal violence, for example, the medical cost of treating crime victims.
4. Costs associated with the production and sale of illegal goods and services.
5. The cost of prevention and protection—the billions of dollars spent on locks and safes, etc.
6. The cost of social control—the criminal justice system, law enforcement, litigative and judicial activities, corrections, and victims’ assistance.
Rehabilitation and Incapacitation

- **Rehabilitation** - Helping offenders rehabilitate using education and job training, individual and group therapy, substance abuse counseling, and behavior modification
- **Incapacitation** - Putting offender in prison
Prisons

- According to the US Bureau of Justice Statistics, there were 2,310,984 prisoners held in federal or state prisons or local jails on June, 2008.
Probation

- The conditional release of an offender who, for a specific time period and subject to certain conditions, remains under court supervision in the community
Capital Punishment

- With capital punishment the state takes the life of a person as punishment for a crime
- More than 1,300 people have been executed since the U.S. Supreme Court in 1976 allowed capital punishment to resume.
- 35 states allow capital punishment
- In 2008:
  - 37 executions took place, with over 3,300 inmates on death row

In 2010 & 2013:
- 39 inmates were executed
- 16 of them in Texas  [List]
Restorative Justice

- A philosophy primarily concerned with reconciling conflict between the victim, the offender, and the community