SOLUTIONS MANUAL

LARRY J. SIEGEL

CRIMINOLOGY

eleventh edition
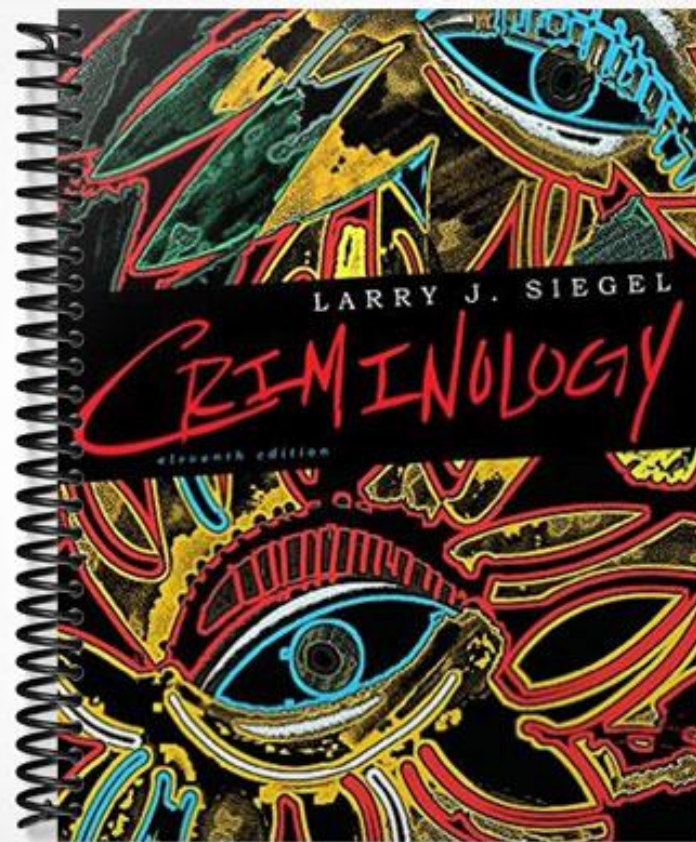
CHAPTER TWO
The Nature and Extent of Crime

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

After reading this chapter the student should be able to:

1. Be familiar with the various forms of crime data.
2. Know the problems associated with collecting data.
3. Be able to discuss recent trends in the crime rate.
4. Be familiar with the factors that influence crime rates.
5. Compare crime rates under different ecological conditions
6. Be able to discuss the association between social class and crime.
7. Know what is meant by the term "aging out process."
8. Recognize that there are gender and racial patterns in crime.
9. Be familiar with Wolfgang, Figlio, and Sellin's pioneering research on chronic offending.
10. Understand the suspected causes of chronicity.

SUMMARY

Criminologists measure crime trends and rates using the Uniform Crime Report (UCR), the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), and self report surveys. These are primary sources of crime data. Secondary sources supplement primary data sources and are used by criminologists to identify specific crime problems and trends, to examine the lives of criminal offenders, and to assess the effectiveness of crime control efforts.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation publishes the UCR which contains data provided by law enforcement agencies across the country. Data, once compiled, are reported as Part I and Part II crimes. Part I crimes include murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, arson, and motor vehicle theft. Part II crimes are all other offenses not included in Part I. Crime data in the UCR are expressed as raw figures and arrests made, rates per 100,000 people, and changes in the number and rate of crime over time. The main weaknesses concerning the validity of the UCR are that not all crimes are reported, law enforcement practices distort the reporting, and methodology issues. The FBI is looking to eventually replace the UCR with the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) that collects information on 46 specific offenses and includes more comprehensive information than the UCR.

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is designed to overcome the problems of the UCR by including crimes not reported to the police. It includes information from a large nationally representative sample and it reports the victimization experiences of the participants. The NCVS has some weaknesses, especially underreporting and overreporting. Like the NCVS, self-report surveys help to illuminate the "dark figure of crime." Most of these studies focus on delinquency and youth crime.

The main weaknesses of self-report surveys are 1) a lot of trivial offenses are included in self-reports; 2) participants may exaggerate, be confused, or forget; and 3) they may not candidly admit illegal acts. Although the data from the UCR, the NCVS, and self-report surveys are not completely in sync, the crime patterns and trends are similar.

Secondary data sources include cohort research, experimental research, observational and interview research, meta-analysis, data mining and crime mapping. Cohort research involves observing a group of people who share a like characteristic over time. Most experimental research in criminology is quasi-experimental as "true" experiments are difficult and expensive to conduct. There are also ethical and legal roadblocks to manipulating subjects' lives and they require long follow-up to verify results. Meta-analysis involves gathering data from a number of previous studies. Data-mining is a type of meta-analysis using multiple advanced computational methods to analyze large data sets from one or more data sources. Criminologists are now using crime mapping to create graphic representations of the spatial geography of crime.

Crime rates have risen and fallen over the many years our nation has been in existence. A number of factors affect crime trends, including the age distribution of the population, the economy, social malaise, abortion, the availability of guns, gangs, drug usage, the media, medical technology, justice policy, and crime opportunities. Overall, there has been a significant downward trend in the rate of crime for more than a decade including a decline in juvenile crime. Most currently, the violent crime rate has risen slightly but it is unknown if this trend is short or long-term. Property crime rates have declined in recent years, although the drop has not been as dramatic as the decrease in the violent crime rate. These trends are apparent in the UCR and are confirmed by the NCVS. Self-report surveys, however, indicate that crime rates are more stable than the UCR indicates. Crime trend projections for the future are mixed.

Crime has followed several predictable patterns over the years. Most crimes occur during the warm summer months of July and August. Murders and robberies, however, are also frequent in December and January. The association between crime and temperature is an inverted U-curve with crime rising with temperature, but beginning to decline around 85 degrees. Crime rates are also highest in urban areas and in the southern and western United States. Although crime rates are highest in inner city, high poverty areas, there is little support for the idea that crime is primarily a lower-class phenomenon. One reason may be that the methods used to measure social class vary widely. A second reason may be that the relationship between social class and crime may be more complex than a simple linear relationship.

Age is inversely related to crime; younger people commit more crime than their older peers. Aging out refers to the process by which offenders reduce the frequency of their offending behavior as they age. Aging out may be due to a reduction in supervision or it may be a function of the natural history of the life cycle.

All three types of crime data confirm that male crime rates are higher than those of females. Over the years a variety of reasons have been given for this phenomenon such as the masculinity hypothesis, the chivalry hypothesis, socialization and development, and liberal feminist theory. Self-report studies indicate that the pattern of female criminality is similar to that of male criminality. Recent data also indicate that female crime rates are rising faster than male crime rates and that females are joining gangs in record numbers.

Minorities are involved in a disproportionate share of criminal activity and racial differences in the crime rate remain an extremely sensitive issue. However, research indicates no relationship between race and self-reported delinquency. Some of the reasons for high minority levels of criminal activity may be true racial differences in the crime rate, racial bias in justice processing, racism and discrimination, institutional racism, economic disparity, social disparity, and family dissolution. If social and economic obstacles are removed, convergence of majority and minority crime rates is possible.

Most offenders commit a single crime and discontinue after arrest. Nevertheless, as Wolfgang, Figlio, and Sellin found, there is a small group responsible for the majority of all crimes. The offenders in this group are called chronic offenders or career criminals. The chronic offender has been the central focus of crime policy.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

I. Introduction

II. Primary Sources of Crime Data
   A. Official Records The Uniform Crime Reports
      1. The Uniform Crime Report (UCR)
         a. Includes crimes reported to local police departments and number of arrests made by police agencies
         b. Index or Part I crimes: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, arson, and motor vehicle theft
         c. Part II crimes: include to use who have been arrested for criminal acts as sex crimes, drug trafficking and vandalism.
      2. Compiling the Uniform Crime Report
         a. Monthly reports of known crime from law enforcement agencies
         b. Monthly reports of crimes cleared
         c. Also reported
            i. Data on the number of clearances involving the arrest of juvenile offenders
            ii. Data on the value of property stolen and recovered in connection with Part I crimes
            iii. Detailed information on homicides
         d. Three methods to express crime data
            i. Number of crimes reported and arrests made
            ii. Crime rates per 100,000
            iii. Changes in the number and rate of crime over time
      3. Are the Uniform Crime Reports Valid?
         a. Reporting practices
            i. Not all crimes are reported and there are various reasons for nonreporting.
            ii. Victim surveys indicate less than 40 percent are reported.

b. Law enforcement practices
    i. Changes in how reporting is done.
    ii. Law enforcement interpretation of the definitions of index crimes
    iii. Systematic errors
    iv. Some may deliberately alter their reports to improve image.
    v. Boosting efficiency may increase crime rates.
    vi. Higher crime rates may result from improved technology or better-qualified personnel.
c. Methodological problems
    i. No federal crimes are reported.
    ii. Reports are voluntary and vary in accuracy and completeness.
    iii. Not all police departments submit reports.
    iv. The FBI uses estimates in its total crime projections.
    v. If an offender commits multiple crimes, only the most serious is recorded (hierarchy rule).
    vi. Each act is listed as a single offense for some crimes but not for others.
    vii. Incomplete acts are lumped together with completed ones.
    viii. Important differences exist between the FBI's definition of certain crimes and those used in a number of states.

4. National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)
  a. Collects data on each reported crime incident
  b. Includes a brief account of each incident and arrest
  c. Information provided on 46 specific offenses
  d. Hate and bias crime information provided
  e. Over twenty states have implemented NIBRS

B. Survey Research
1. Used to measure attitudes, beliefs, values, characteristics, and experiences with crime and victimization
  a. Sampling: a representative group
  b. Population: the entire group from which a representative sample is taken
  c. Cross-sectional survey: representative of all members of society

C. The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
1. Designed to address non-reporting issue
  a. Large nationally representative sample –87,000 households, 150,000 interviews of people age 12 or older conducted annually
  b. Provides information about the victims, offenders, and crimes; experiences of victims with the criminal justice system, self-protective measures used by victims

2. NCVS: Advantages and Problems
  a. Estimates the total amount of annual crimes and not only those that are reported to police
  b. Helps understand why crimes are not reported to police and whether the type and nature of the criminal event influences impacts its reporting

        c. Overreporting due to misinterpretation of events

        d. Underreporting due to embarrassment, fear, or forgetfulness

        e. Inability to record the personal criminal activity of those interviewed

        f. Sampling errors

        g. Inadequate question format that invalidates responses

    3. The Future of the NCVS

        a. Effectiveness undermined by budget limitations

           i. Sample size and methods of data collection have been altered

D. Self Report Surveys

    1. Participants asked to describe their recent and lifetime participation in criminal activity; also ask about attitudes, values, and behaviors

        a. Most focus on juvenile delinquency and youth crime

        b. Also used with prison inmates, drug users, and even police officers

    2. Self-report patterns

        a. Monitoring the Future study – University of Michigan Institute for Social Research

           i. Annually since 1978; asks 2,500 high school seniors about their substance abuse; national standard to measure substance abuse trends among American teens

           ii. Data indicate the number of people who break the law is far greater than the number projected by official statistics.

    3. Validity of self-reports

        a. Critiques of self-reports

           i. Cannot expect respondents to candidly admit illegal acts

           ii. May exaggerate criminal acts, forget, or be confused

           iii. Many trivial offenses in self-reports

        b. "Missing cases," phenomenon is a concern.

        c. Reporting accuracy differs among racial, ethnic, and gender groups.

        d. The "known group method" used to verify self-report data

E. Evaluating the Primary Sources of Crime Data

    1. UCR

        a. Strengths

           i. Contains data on number and characteristics of people arrested

           ii. Arrest data can provide a measure of criminal activity.

           iii. Sole source of data on homicide

           iv. Standard upon which most criminological research is based

        b. Weaknesses

           i. Omits those crimes not reported to the police

           ii. Subject to reporting caprices of individual police departments

    2. NCVS

        a. Strengths

           i. Includes unreported crimes

           ii. Includes important information on the personal characteristics of victims

        b. Weaknesses

           i. Limited sample

        ii.   Relies on personal recollections
        iii.   Does not include data on crime patterns, including murder and drug abuse
    3. Self-report surveys
       a. Strength
          i.   Can provide information on personal characteristics of offenders
       b. Weakness
          i.   Rely on honesty of criminal offenders and drug abusers, a population not generally known for accuracy and integrity
    4. Overall
       a. Crime patterns and trends often quite similar
       b. Agreement on personal characteristics of serious criminals
       c. Reliable indicators of changes and fluctuations in yearly crime rates

III. Secondary Sources of Crime Data
  A. Cohort Research
    1. Involves observing a group of people who share a like characteristic over time.
    2. Difficult, expensive, and time consuming to follow a cohort over time
    3. Sometimes researchers do retrospective studies.
  B. Experimental Research
    1. True experiments have three elements
       a. Random selection of subjects
       b. Control or comparison group
       c. An experimental condition
    2. Quasi-experimental design is used if it is impossible to randomly select subjects or manipulate conditions
    3. Criminological experiments
       a. Relatively rare because they are difficult and expensive to conduct
       b. Ethical and legal roadblocks to manipulating subjects' lives
       c. Require long follow-up to verify results
  C. Observational and Interview Research
    1. Sometimes researchers focus on a relatively few subjects.
    2. Sometimes they interview criminals in-depth or observe criminals firsthand to gather insight into their motives and activities.
  D. Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review
    1. Meta-analysis
       a. Gathers data from a number of previous studies
       b. Compatible information and data are extracted and pooled together.
       c. When analyzed, more powerful and valid indicator of results than a single study
    2. Systematic review
       a. Collect findings from previous studies addressing a particular problem
       b. Appraise and synthesize the evidence
       c. Use collective evidence to address a particular scientific question

E. Data Mining
   1. Using multiple, advanced, computational methods to analyze large data sets from one or more data sources
      a. Goal: identify significant and recognizable patterns, trends, and relationships not otherwise detected
      b. Used to predict future events or behaviors
F. Crime Mapping
   1. Creates graphic representations of the spatial geography of crime
      a. Simple maps indicating crime locations or concentrations
      b. Complex maps can be used to chart trends in criminal activity

IV. Crime Trends
A. Changes in Crime Trends Over Time
   1. 1830-1860: gradual increase in violent crime
   2. 1880 - World War I: reported crimes decreased
   3. WWI – 1930: crime rates declined until 1930
   4. 1930 – 1960: crimes rates increased gradually; homicide rate declined
   5. 1960 – 1981: crime rate growth had a greater rate of increase
   6. 1981 – 1984: a consistent decline in index crimes
   7. 1984 – 1991: crime rate increased
   8. 1991 – 2009: declines in violent and property crime
B. Trends in Self-Reporting
   1. Self-report results appear to be more stable than the UCR and NCVS data indicate
   2. Uniform pattern over 20-year period
      a. The use of drugs and alcohol increased markedly in the 1970s, leveled off in the 1980s, increased until mid-1990s and have been in decline ever since
      b. Theft, violence, and damage-related crimes seem more stable
      c. Although a self-reported crime wave has not occurred, neither has there been any visible reduction in self-reported criminality
C. Factors the Influence Crime Trends
   1. Age
      a. Graying of America
   2. Immigration
      a. Immigrants are less crime prone than the general population
   3. Economy
      a. Little correlation between indicators of economic prosperity and crime rates
   4. Abortion
      a. Availability of abortion related to reduced crime rates
      b. Selective abortion by women most at risk to have children
      c. Better maternal, familial, or fetal care due to having fewer children
   5. Guns
      a. Availability of guns
      b. More teens with guns

6. Gangs
    a. Gang members more likely to possess guns
    b. Crime associated with gangs
7. Drug use
    a. Relationship between violent crime rate and crack epidemic
    b. Decrease in crack and a decrease in violence
8. Media
    a. Violent themed media
    b. Violence on TV correlated to aggressive behaviors
9. Medical technology
    a. Quality of healthcare significantly reduces murder rates.
    b. Fluctuations in murder rates linked to availability of emergency medical services
10. Justice Policy
    a. Increase in the number of police on the streets
    b. Aggressive police tactics that target "quality of life" crimes
    c. Tough laws and lengthy prison terms
    d. Drawbacks of tough policies can increase crime rate
11. Social and Cultural Change
    a. New opportunities for offending result from changes in the technological or social environment
    b. Cultural macro-level conditions such as the number of single-parent families, high school dropout rates, racial conflict, and the prevalence of teen pregnancies also exert a powerful influence on crime rates.
12. Criminal Opportunity
    a. Market conditions and the low price of pilferable items
    b. Improved home and commercial security devices

V. What the Future Holds
1. The economy, technological change, and social factors help to moderate the crime rate.
2. Technological developments (Internet and e-commerce) have created new classes of crime

VI. Crime Patterns
A. The Ecology of Crime
    1. Day, season, and climate
        a. Most crimes occur during the warm summer months of July and August.
        b. Murders and robberies occur frequently during December and January.
        c. Crime rates are higher on the first day of the month.
    2. Temperature
        a. Association between temperature and crime resembles an inverted U-curve.
        b. Crime rates rise with rising temperatures.
        c. Crime rates decline around 85 degrees.

3. Regional differences
   a. Large urban areas have the highest violence rates.
   b. Exceptions to this trend are large transient or seasonal populations.
   c. Western and southern states have consistently higher crime rates than Midwest and northeast.
   d. Some criminologists believe regional cultural values may influence crime; others believe regional differences are explained by economic disparities.
B. Use of Firearms
   1. Play a dominant role in criminal activity
   2. Zimring and Hawkins believe that the proliferation of handguns and the high rate of lethal violence cause is the single most significant factor separating the crime problem in the United States from the rest of the world.
   3. Kleck and Gertz maintain personal gun use may be a deterrent to crime.
C. Social Class, Socioeconomic Conditions, and Crime
   1. Crime is a lower-class phenomenon
      a. Instrumental crimes
      b. Expressive crimes
   2. UCR data indicate higher crime rates in inner-city, high-poverty areas.
   3. Prisoners were members of the lower class, unemployed, or underemployed before incarceration.
   4. Evaluating the Class-Crime Association
      a. Serious, official crime is more prevalent among the lower class.
      b. Less serious crime is spread more evenly throughout the social structure.
      c. Lower class more likely to suffer psychological abnormalities that may promote crime – anxiety and conduct disorders.
      d. Communities lacking in economic and social opportunities produce high levels of frustration.
   5. Crime and the Economy
      a. While seemingly logical that crime rates peak during tough economic times, research shows that aggregate crime rates and aggregate unemployment rates seem weakly related
      b. Four diverging views on the association between the economy and crime rates:
         i. Bad Economy/ higher crime rates
         ii. Good economy/higher crime rates
         iii. Bad economy/lower crime rates
         iv. Crime and the economy are unrelated
      c. Why the uncertainty? – methods to measure social class vary widely
      d. Possible that the association between social class and crime is more complex than a simple linear relationship
D. Age and Crime
   1. Age is inversely related to criminality
   2. Younger people commit crime more often than do their older peers

3. The most recent research dispute the "co-offending" hypothesis and suggests the great bulk of youth crime is a solo act
4. Aging Out of Crime
    a. Crime peaks in adolescence then declines rapidly thereafter.
    b. Agnew – the peak in criminal activity can be linked to essential features of adolescence in modern, industrial societies
        i. A reduction in supervision
        ii. An increase in social and academic demands
        iii. Participation in a larger, more diverse, peer-oriented world
        iv. An increased desire for adult privileges
        v. A reduced ability to cope in a legitimate manner and increased incentive to solve problems in a criminal manner
    c. Aging out is a function of the natural history of the human life cycle.
E. Gender and Crime
    1. Male crime rates are much higher than those of females
        a. Males account for 80% of all arrests for serious crimes, almost 70% of arrests for serious property crimes; murder: 8 males to 1 female
    2. Even though gender difference in the crime rate have persisted over time, there seems little question that females are now involved in more crime than ever before and that there are more similarities than differences between male and female offenders
    3. Explaining Gender Differences in the Crime Rate
        a. Early criminologists pointed to emotional, physical, and psychological differences to explain crime rate differences.
        b. Masculinity hypothesis
        c. Chivalry hypothesis
    4. Socialization and Development
        a. Girls socialized to be less aggressive and are supervised more closely than boys
        b. Males are more likely then to display physical aggression while girls display relational aggression
        c. Male perceptions of power, their ability to have freedom and hang with their friends, helped explain the gender differences in crime and delinquency
        d. Girls are usually taught—directly or indirectly—to respond to provocation by feeling anxious and depressed, whereas boys are encouraged to retaliate
    5. Cognitive Differences
        a. Significant cognitive differences between boys and girls may impact anti-social behaviors and behavioral variations
            i. Girls superior to boys in verbal ability
            ii. Girls, even at an early age, more empathic than boys
    6. Feminist Views
        a. Liberal feminist theory – traditionally lower crime rates for women could be explained by their "second-class" economic and social position

b. As women's social roles changed and their lifestyles became more like men's, it was believed that their crime rates would converge
c. Self-report studies seem to indicate that the pattern of female criminality is similar to that of male criminality
d. Factors that predispose male criminals to crime have an equal impact on female criminals

7. Is Convergence Likely?
a. Female arrest rates seem to be increasing at a faster pace than males
b. The "emancipation of women" may have had relatively little influence on female crime rates
c. Changes in police activity may explain differences in arrest trends

F. Race and Crime
1. Minorities involved in a disproportionate share of criminal activity
2. Account for a disproportionate number of Part I and II arrests
3. Possible reasons
a. Data reflect racial differences in the crime rate
b. May reflect police bias in the arrest process
4. Research – no relationship between race and self-reported delinquency
5. National surveys of driving practices show that young black and Latino males are more likely to be stopped by police and suffer citations, searches, and arrests, as well as be the target of force

G. System Bias
1. Racial threat hypothesis
a. As the percentage of minorities in the population increases so to does the amount of social control that police direct at minority group members
2. Indications that the justice system treats minority defendants different than members of the White majority
a. Less likely to receive bail; receive longer prison sentences
b. When victims of crime, minority predicaments receive less public concern and media attention
3. Cultural Bias
a. The fact that U.S. culture influences African American crime rates is underscored by the fact that black violence rates are much lower in other nations
b. Black crime may be a function of socialization process
4. Structural Bias
a. Social and economic disparity
5. The Racial Threat Hypothesis
a. Minority crime rate is relatively high because racism is still an element of daily life in the minority community and police behavior and decision making reflects a racial bias
b. Significant body of research showing that the justice system may be racially biased on both individual and institutional levels
6. Economic and Social Disparity

<ol type="a" start="1">
Racial and ethnic minorities are often forced to live in high crime areas where the risk of victimization is significant
Racial and ethnic minorities face a greater degree of social isolation and economic deprivation than the white majority

<ol start="7">
Family Dissolution
<ol type="a">
Low employment rates among African American males places a strain on marriages.
Large number of female-headed households due to high mortality rate among African American males

<ol start="9">
Convergence possible if economic and social obstacles can be removed.

G. Immigration and Crime

Prevailing view that illegal immigrants are dangerous and violent and that areas that house illegals experience a spike in their crime rates
However, research has found that immigrants are far less likely than the average U.S. native to commit crime.

H. Chronic Offenders/Criminal Careers

Most offenders commit a single criminal act and discontinue antisocial activity after arrest.
Small group of persistent offenders account for a majority of all criminal offenses.
Wolfgang, Figlio, and Sellin
<ol type="a">
"Chronic 6 percent" of total sample were arrested five or more times
Responsible for 51.9% of all offenses
Arrests and court experience did little to deter the chronic offender.

What causes chronicity?
<ol type="a">
Kids exposed to a variety of personal and social problems at an early age are the most at risk to repeat offending; "early onset"

Persistence – The Continuity of Crime
<ol type="a">
Children who are disruptive at age five or six the most likely to persist in crime

<ol type="i">
Have measurable behavior problems
Do not specialize in one type of crime

Implications of the chronic offender concept
<ol type="a">
Chronic offender is the central focus of crime policy
Apprehension and punishment have little effect
Sentencing policies designed to incapacitate chronic offenders have been established
<ol type="i">
Mandatory sentences and three strikes policies

KEY TERMS

Aging Out – The process by which individuals reduce the frequency of their offending behavior as they age. It is also known as spontaneous remission, because people are believed to spontaneously reduce the rate of their criminal behavior as they mature. Aging out is thought to occur among all groups of offenders.

Career Criminal – A person who repeatedly violates the law and organizes his or her lifestyle around criminality.

Chivalry Hypothesis – The idea that low female crime and delinquency rates are a reflection of the leniency with which police treat female offenders.

Chronic Offender – According to Wolfgang, a delinquent offender who is arrested five or more times before he or she is 18 and who stands a good chance of becoming an adult criminal; such offenders are responsible for more than half of all serious crimes.

Cleared Crimes – Crimes are cleared in two ways: when at least one person is arrested, charged, and turned over to the court for prosecution; or by exceptional means, when some element beyond police control precludes the physical arrest of an offender (for example, the offender leaves the country).

Cohort – A sample of subjects whose behavior is followed over a period of time.

Continuity of Crime – The view that crime begins early in life and continues throughout the life course. Thus, the best predictor of future criminality is past criminality.

Crime Mapping – Computerized crime maps that allow criminologists to analyze and correlate a wide array of date to create immediate, detailed visuals of crime patterns – the spatial geography of crime.

Cross-Sectional Survey – Uses survey data derived from all age, race, gender, and income segments of the population measured simultaneously. Because people from every age group are represented, age-specific crime rates can be determined. Proponents believe this is a sufficient substitute for the more expensive longitudinal approach that follows a group of subjects over time to measure crime rate changes.

Data Mining – A criminological technique that uses multiple advanced computational methods, including artificial intelligence (the use of computers to perform logical functions), to analyze large data sets usually involving one or more data sources.

Early Onset – A terms that refers to the assumption that a criminal career begins early in life and that people who are deviant at a very young age are the ones most likely to persist in crime.

Expressive Crimes – Crimes that have no purpose except to accomplish the behavior at hand, such as shooting someone.

Index Crimes – The eight crimes that, because of their seriousness and frequency, the FBI reports the incidence of in the annual Uniform Crime Report. Index crimes include murder, rape, assault, robbery, burglary, arson, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

Instrumental Crimes – Offenses designed to improve the financial or social position of the criminal.

Liberal Feminist Theory – Theory suggesting that the traditionally lower crime rate for women can be explained by their second class economic and social position. As women's social roles have changed and their lifestyles have become more like those of men, it is believed that their crime rates will converge.

Masculinity Hypothesis – The view that women who commit crimes have biological and psychological traits similar to those of men.

Meta-Analysis – A research technique that uses the grouped data from several different studies.

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) – The ongoing victimization study conducted jointly by the Justice Department and the U.S. Census Bureau that surveys victims about their experiences with law violation.

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) – A relatively new program that requires local police agencies to provide a brief account of each incident and arrest within twenty-two crime patterns, including incident, victim, and offender information.

Part I Crimes – Another term for index crimes; eight categories of serious, frequent crimes.

Part II Crimes – All crimes other than index and minor traffic offenses. The FBI records annual arrest information for Part II offenses.

Persistence – The idea that those who started delinquent careers early and who committed serious violent crimes throughout adolescence were the most likely to persist as adults.

Population – All people who share a particular characteristic, such as all high school students or all police officers.

Racial Threat Theory – A theory espousing that as the percentage of African Americans in the population increases so too does the amount of social control that police direct at blacks.

Retrospective Cohort Study – A study that uses an intact cohort of known offenders and looks back into their early life experiences by checking their educational, family, police, and hospital records.

Sampling – Selecting a limited number of people for study as representative of a larger group.

Self-Report Survey – A research approach that requires subjects to reveal their own participation in delinquent or criminal acts.

Systematic Review – A research technique that involves collecting the findings from previously conducted studies, appraising and synthesizing the evidence, and using the collective evidence to address a particular scientific question.

Three Strikes – Policies whereby people convicted of three felony offenses receive a mandatory life sentence.

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) – Large database, compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of crimes reported and arrests made each year throughout the United States.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Ask students if they would answer an anonymous survey about their criminal behaviors honestly. Have them provide reasons why they would or would not. How does such action impact research?

2. Go more in-depth on reasons crimes are reported or not. Why do people report crime? Why do crimes go unreported?

3.   Which victims or offenders may be missed through the NCVS? UCR? Self-report surveys?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Break students into groups and have them construct a short self-report survey on underage drinking at their previous high schools. What questions should be included? How easy or difficult is it to construct a proper survey? How might they sample their fellow students? How might different sampling procedures lead to different results? What problems may arise – for example, memory problems, lying, and revelations of other illegal behaviors?

2. Draw the age-crime curve and ask students to provide reasons for the increase in later adolescent years and reasons for the aging out process.

3. Obtain a copy of the latest campus crime report and discuss its findings. Ask students if the findings are an accurate reflection of crime on campus. Why or why not? Debate the use of official statistics.

4. This chapter examines differences between females and males in their levels of criminal involvement. Compile a list of 30 delinquent acts including alcohol and drug use, minor criminal acts, and more serious criminal acts. Hand this form out to the students asking them to identify whether they are female or male and have them check each item they committed prior to the age of 18. To preserve anonymity have students submit their forms and then redistribute them. On the board, create two

columns numbered one to thirty (one column for male responses and one for female). Have students place check marks on the board respective to those on the form they now hold. Discuss the delinquent acts where females and males report similar levels of offending and those acts where there is a clear disparity.

5. One reason provided for the disproportionate numbers of minorities in the criminal justice system is racial profiling. Poll the class on their view on racial profiling. Then have students find articles on instances or claims of racial profiling and present them to the class. Poll the class again to determine if views changed. The following link is a useful resource: http://www.racialprofilinganalysis.neu.edu/