Chapter 6

Deviance and Social Control
What is Deviance?

- Relative Deviance
- What is Deviant to Some is not Deviant to Others
- “Deviance” is Nonjudgmental Term
  - A Neutral Term
- Stigma
Norms Make Social Life Possible

- Makes Behavior Predictable
- No Norms - Social Chaos
- Social Control
  - Group’s Formal and Informal Means of Enforcing Norms
Sanctions

• Negative Sanctions
  – Frowns/gossip breaking folkways; imprisonment/capital punishment for violating Mores

• Positive Sanctions
  – From smiles to formal awards
  – Are used to reward people for conforming to norms
Competing Explanations of Deviance

• Sociobiologists
  – Look for Answers Inside Individuals
  – Genetic Predispositions

• Psychologists
  – Focuses on Abnormalities Within Individuals
  – Personality Disorders
  – Deviant Personalities
Competing Explanations of Deviance

• Sociologists
  – Look for Answers Outside Individuals
  – Socialization
  – Membership in Subcultures
  – Social Class
Symbolic Interactionist Perspective: Differential Association Theory

- The Theory
  - Edwin Sutherland
- Families
- Friends, Neighbors, and Subcultures
- Prison or Freedom?
Symbolic Interactionist Perspective: Control Theory

• The Theory
  – Inner Controls
    • Morality; Conscience; Religious Principles
  – Outer controls
    • Family, friends, the police

• Applying Control Theory
Symbolic Interactionist Perspective: Labeling Theory

• Rejecting Labels: How People Neutralize Deviance
  – Denial of responsibility, injury, victim; condemnation of the condemners; loyalties

• Embracing Labels - Outlaw Bikers

• Power of Labels: Saints & Roughnecks
Functionalist Perspective: Can Deviance Be Functional?

• Most of us are upset by deviance
• Clarifies Moral Boundaries and Affirms Norms
• Promotes Social Unity
• Promotes Social Change
Functionalist Perspective: Strain Theory

• How Mainstream Values Produce Deviance
• Cultural Goals
• Institutional Means
• Strain Leads to Anomie
• Deviant paths
  – Innovators; Ritualism; Retreatism; Rebellion
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do They Feel the Strain That Leads to Anomie?</th>
<th>Mode of Adaptation</th>
<th>Cultural Goals</th>
<th>Institutionalized Means</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Conformity</td>
<td>Accept</td>
<td>Accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Deviant Paths:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Innovation</td>
<td>Accept</td>
<td>Reject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Ritualism</td>
<td>Reject</td>
<td>Accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Retreatism</td>
<td>Reject</td>
<td>Reject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Rebellion</td>
<td>Reject/Replace</td>
<td>Reject/Replace</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Functionalist Perspective: Illegitimate Opportunity Structures

• Social Class Produces Distinct Styles of Crime
• Street Crime
• White-Collar Crime
  – Corporations as Criminals
• Gender and Crime
How Safe Is Your State? Violent Crimes In the United States

Violent crimes per 100,000 people.
- Safer than average (119–302)
- Average safety (307–496)
- More dangerous than average (504–728)

Safest
1. Maine (119)
2. Vermont (141)
3. New Hampshire (166)

Most Dangerous
1. Nevada (728)
2. South Carolina (726)
3. Tennessee (722)
The Conflict Perspective

• Class, Crime, and the Criminal Justice System

• The Criminal Justice System as an Instrument of Oppression
  – Conflict theorists regard power & social inequality as main characteristics of society
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>1992</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>+63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stolen property</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>+62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car theft</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>+59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drunken driving</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>+55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated assault</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>+45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>+36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny/theft</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>+28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>+17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal drugs</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>+13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgery and counterfeiting</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
<td>+9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
<td>+5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal weapons</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States 2011:Table 330.
Reaction to Deviance

• Street Crime and Prisons
• The Decline of Crime
• Recidivism
• The Death Penalty Bias
• Legal Change
  – Hate Crimes
Reaction to Deviance

• The Medicalization of Deviance: Mental Illness
  – Neither Mental nor Illness?
  – Homeless Mentally Ill

• The Need for a More Humane Approach
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Percentage of Prisoners with These Characteristics</th>
<th>Percentage of U.S. Population with These Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–24</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25–34</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35–44</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45–54</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 and older</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race-Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>65.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>50.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never married</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>57.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College graduate</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How Much Is Enough? The Explosion in the Number of U.S. Prisoners

The graph shows the number of federal and state prisoners in the United States from 1970 to 2020. The number of prisoners has increased dramatically over this period. In 1970, there were approximately 196,000 prisoners, and by 2020, the number had risen to 1,800,000.

Key points:
- 1970: 196,000
- 1980: 316,000
- 1990: 774,000
- 2000: 1,391,000
- 2010: 1,610,000
- 2020: 1,800,000

The graph illustrates the significant rise in the number of prisoners over the decades, highlighting the explosion in the prison population.
Recidivism of U.S. Prisoners

Of 272,000 prisoners released from U.S. prisons, what percentage were rearrested within three years?

The rearrest rates of those who had been convicted of:

- Stealing cars: 79%
- Possessing or selling stolen property: 77%
- Theft: 75%
- Burglary: 74%
- Robbery: 70%
- Illegal weapons: 70%
- Illegal drugs: 67%
- Fraud: 66%
- Arson: 58%
- Drunk driving: 52%
- Rape: 46%
- Murder: 41%
Executions in the United States

- **States without death penalty**
- **States with death penalty that have not executed anyone**
- **States with death penalty**

**Highest Number of Executions**
1. Texas (447)
2. Virginia (105)
3. Oklahoma (91)
### Table 6.4

The Race–Ethnicity of the 3,316 Prisoners on Death Row

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage on Death Row</th>
<th>Percentage in U.S. Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Americans</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: By the author. Based on Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2010: Table 6.80 and Figure 12.5 of this text.
Who Gets Executed?
Gender Bias in Capital Punishment