“Unjust social arrangements are themselves a kind of extortion, even violence.”

Chapter 4:
Crime and Social Control
Chapter Outline

• The Global Context: International Crime and Violence
• Sources of Crime Statistics
• Sociological Theories of Crime
• Types of Crime
• Demographic Patterns of Crime
• The Costs of Crime and Social Control
• Strategies for Action: Crime and Social Control
• Understanding Crime and Social Control
Several facts about crime throughout the world:

1. There is no country without crime.
2. Most countries have the same components in their criminal justice systems: police, courts, and prisons.
3. Adult males make up the largest category of crime suspects.
4. In all countries theft is the most common crime committed and violent crime is a relatively rare event.
The Global Context: International Crime and Social Control

• Winslow and Zhang (2008) also examined crime rates by dividing them into types of crime... **violent crime** or **property crime**.

• Although we are concerned about these types of crimes and the possibility of victimization, INTERPOL has identified six global priority areas:
  1. drugs and criminal organizations
  2. financial and high-tech crimes
  3. tracing of fugitives
  4. public safety and countering terrorism
  5. trafficking in human beings,
  6. fighting corruption
The Global Context: International Crime and Social Control

• Each of the before mentioned priority areas contains a relatively new category of crime; transnational crime.

• As defined by the U.S. Department of Justice, transnational crime is “organized criminal activity across one or more national borders” (U.S. Department of Justice 2003).
The Global Context: International Crime and Social Control

• **Examples of Transitional Crimes:**
  – 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.
The Global Context: International Crime and Social Control

A young boy, a victim of human trafficking, is forced to work in a balloon factory outside of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Human trafficking is estimated to be multibillion-dollar enterprise, approaching the international value of drug and arms trafficking (INTERPOL 2011c).

“...12.5 million people in the world have been victims of human trafficking...[and] of that number, it is estimated that 80.0 percent are women and girls, and 50.0 percent are minors.
What Do You Think?

• According to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), hijacking of ships and other vessels reached an all time high in 2010—53 ships hijacked, and 1,181 hostages held—86 percent by Somali pirates (ICC 2011). For example, in 2011, Somali pirates hijacked an American yacht and killed four of its passengers—the first time Americans were killed in a maritime piracy incident (MacAskill & Rice 2011). In federal law, death resulting from aircraft piracy, or attempted hijacking of an aircraft, carries the death penalty.

• Do you think that deaths that result from maritime hijacking should carry the death penalty? What if the death is not of a hostage but of a fellow hijacker?
Sources of Crime Statistics

• What is 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.

• The three major types of statistics used to measure crime are official statistics, victimization surveys, and self-report offender surveys.
Sources of Crime Statistics

Official Statistics

• **Crime rate** is the number of crimes committed per 100,000 population.

• **Clearance rates** is the percentage of crimes in which an arrest and official charge have been made and the case has been turned over to the courts.
Sources of Crime Statistics

Official Statistics

- Official statistics have several shortcomings:
  - Many crimes are not reported.
  - Some reported crimes are not recorded by police.
  - Some rates may be exaggerated.
Sources of Crime Statistics
Official Statistics

Figure 4.1: Four Measures of Serious Violent Crime
Source: BJS 2010a. The serious violent crimes included are rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and homicide.
Sources of Crime Statistics
Victimization Surveys

• Acknowledging the tendency for so many crimes to go unreported and thus undetected by the UCR, the U.S. Department of Justice conducts the **National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)**.

• Interviewers collect a variety of information, including the victim’s background (e.g., age, race and ethnicity, sex, marital status, education, and area of residence), relationship to the offender (stranger or nonstranger), and the extent to which the victim was harmed.
Sources of Crime Statistics
Self-Report Offender Surveys

- **Self-report surveys** ask offenders about their criminal behavior.
- Self-report data compensate for many of the problems associated with official statistics but are still subject to exaggerations and concealment.
Sources of Crime Statistics
Self-Report Offender Surveys

• Self-report surveys reveal that virtually every adult has engaged in some type of criminal activity.
• For individuals to be officially labeled criminals;
  1. their behavior must become known to have occurred;
  2. the behavior must come to the attention of the police, who then file a report, conduct an investigation, and make an arrest; and finally;
  3. the arrestee must go through a preliminary hearing, an arraignment, and a trial and may or may not be convicted.
Sociological Theories of Crime

Structural-Functionalist Theories

• According to Durkheim and other functionalists, crime can have the following functions for society:
  – Strengthens group cohesion
  – Can lead to social change

• Structural functionalist is a perspective and not a theory of crime. There are three functionalist theories of crime:
  1. Strain Theory
  2. Subcultural Theories
  3. Control Theory
Sociological Theories of Crime
Structural-Functionalist Theories

• Strain Theory:
  – People adapt to inconsistency between means and goals in society.
  – Methods of adaptation: conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism and rebellion.
Sociological Theories of Crime
Structural-Functionalist Theories

**TABLE 4.1 Merton’s Strain Theory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODE OF ADAPTATION</th>
<th>CULTURALLY DEFINED GOALS</th>
<th>STRUCTURALLY DEFINED MEANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Conformity</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Innovation</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ritualism</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Retreatism</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rebellion</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ = acceptance of/access to; − = rejection of/lack of access to; ± = rejection of culturally defined goals and structurally defined means and replacement with new goals and means;
Sociological Theories of Crime
Structural-Functionalist Theories

• **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.
Sociological Theories of Crime
Structural-Functionalist Theories

• Control Theories:
  – 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.
Sociological Theories of Crime
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.
Sociological Theories of Crime
Conflict Perspective

- To Marxists, the cultural definition of women as property contributes to the high rates of female criminality and, specifically, involvement in prostitution, drug abuse and petty theft.

- In the Netherlands, prostitution has been legal since 2000. Amsterdam's "red-light district" is famous for its displays of "window prostitutes."
What Do You Think?

- Using data from the General Social Survey, Barkan and Cohn investigated the relationship of prejudice and spending on criminal justice.
- They concluded that the more racially prejudiced whites perceive African Americans as prone to violence, the more likely they are to spend money to reduce crime.
- How is this consistent with the conflict perspective?
Sociological Theories of Crime
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.
Sociological Theories of Crime
Symbolic Interactionist Perspective

• Primary and Secondary Deviance
  – **Primary deviance** is deviant behavior committed before a person is caught and labeled as an offender.
  – **Secondary deviance** is deviance that results from being caught and labeled.
Sociological Theories of Crime
Symbolic Interactionist Perspective

• Being labeled as deviant often leads to further deviant behavior because:
  1. The person who is labeled as deviant is often denied opportunities for engaging in non-deviant behavior, and
  2. The labeled person internalizes the deviant label, adopts a deviant self-concept, and acts accordingly.
Types Of Crime

- Index offenses
- Vice crime
- Organized crime
- White-collar crime
- Computer crime
- Juvenile delinquency
Types of Crime

Index Offenses

• The FBI identifies eight index offenses as the most serious crimes in the United States.

• The index offenses, or street crimes as they are often called, can be against a person (called violent or personal crimes) or against property.

• Other types of crime include vice crime (such as drug use, gambling, and prostitution), organized crime, white-collar crime, computer crime, and juvenile delinquency. Hate crimes are discussed in Chapter 9.
What Do You Think? In 2011, a Democratic lawmaker in Hawaii’s State House introduced a bill that would make it a crime to sell a toy gun to anyone under the age of 18 (Sakahara 2011). The proposed legislation carries a penalty of a $2,000 fine, jail time, or both. Would you support such a law? Do you think that exposure to violent toys, games, movies, and the like leads to aggressiveness? If so, could that explain gender differences in violent crime rates?
# Types of Crime

Index Crime Rates, Percentage Change, and Clearance Rates, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violent crime</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000, 2009</th>
<th>Percentage Change in Rate, 2000–2009</th>
<th>Percentage Cleared, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>−10.4</td>
<td>66.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcible rape</td>
<td>56.6**</td>
<td>−2.3</td>
<td>41.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>133.0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated assault</td>
<td>262.8</td>
<td>−18.9</td>
<td>56.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>429.4</td>
<td>−7.5</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Types of Crime

Index Crime Rates, Percentage Change, and Clearance Rates, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rate Per 100,000, 2009</th>
<th>Percentage Change in Rate, 2000–2009</th>
<th>Percentage Cleared, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Property Crime</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>785.4</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny/theft</td>
<td>2,060.9</td>
<td>-9.2</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicle theft</td>
<td>258.8</td>
<td>-31.5</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>21.3*</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>22.8^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total†</strong></td>
<td>3,036.1</td>
<td>-16.1</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Types of Crime

Street Crime: Violent Offenses

- **Violent crime** includes homicide, assault, rape, and robbery.

- **Homicide** refers to the willful or non-negligent killing of one human being by another individual or group of individuals.

- Although homicide is the most serious of the violent crimes, it is also the least common, accounting for 1.2 percent of all violent crimes.
Types of Crime

Street Crime: Violent Offenses

- **Mass murders** have more than one victim in a killing event.

- Unlike mass murder, **serial murder** is the “unlawful killing of two or more victims by the same offender(s), in separate events”

- Another form of violent crime, **aggravated assault**, involves attacking a person with the intent to cause serious bodily injury.
Types of Crime
Street Crime: Violent Offenses

• Rape
  – The FBI definition of rape contains three elements: sexual penetration, force or the threat of force, and non-consent of the victim.
  – In 2009, 88,097 forcible rapes were reported in the United States
Types of Crime
Street Crime: Violent Offenses

• **Acquaintance rape** is committed by someone known to the victim.

• 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.
Types of Crime

Street Crime: Violent Offenses

- **Classic rape** is committed by a stranger, with the use of a weapon, resulting in serious bodily injury to the victim.
- The rapist was a stranger who used a weapon and the attack resulted in serious bodily injury.
- Women hesitate to report the crime out of fear of not being believed.
- The increased use of “rape drugs,” such as Rohypnol, may lower reporting levels even further.
Types of Crime
Street Crime: Violent Offenses

• Robbery:
  – Robbery, unlike simple theft, also involves force or the threat of force or putting a victim in fear and is thus considered a violent crime.
  – Officially, in 2009, more than 408,217 robberies took place in the United States. Robberies are most often (42.6 percent) committed with the use of a firearm and occur disproportionately in southern states.
What Do You Think? Forensic psychiatrist, William Bernet of Vanderbilt University, argues that the combination of two factors helps explain abrupt, violent behavior (Hagerty 2010). The first is a variant of the MAO-A gene sometimes called the “warrior gene” because of its association with violence. The second factor is a history of child abuse. Sociologically, the question is this: If it can be scientifically established that violent behavior is, in whole or in part, a consequence of an individual’s genetic makeup, what is the implication for criminal justice policy? Should society hold offenders responsible for factors they have no control over? Should parents be required by law to have their children’s DNA tested? Should people who have the variant gene be sterilized? What do you think?
Types of Crime

Street Crime: Property Offenses

- **Property crimes** are those in which someone’s property is damaged, destroyed, or stolen; they include larceny, motor vehicle theft, burglary, and arson.

- The number of property crimes has gone down since 1998, with an almost 10 percent decrease in the last decade.
Types of Crime
Street Crime: Property Offenses

• **Larceny**, or simple theft, accounts for more than two-thirds of all property arrests, and is the most common index offense.

• **Burglary**, which is the second most common index offense after larceny, entails entering a structure, usually a house, with the intent to commit a crime while inside.

• **Arson** involves the malicious burning of the property of another.
In this picture from the video game *Postal 2*, a man holding a shovel has just killed innocent bystanders, predominantly women. *Postal 2* is one of the video games being considered as part of the deliberation of the U.S. Supreme Court on whether or not video game content is protected under the First Amendment’s right to free speech.
Type of Crime
Vice Crime

- **Vice crimes**, often thought of as crimes against morality, are illegal activities that have no complaining participant(s) and are often called **victimless crimes**.

- Examples of vice crimes include using illegal drugs, engaging in or soliciting prostitution, illegal gambling, and pornography.
Type of Crime

Vice Crime

- Most Americans view **drug use** as socially disruptive. There is less consensus, however, nationally or internationally, that gambling and prostitution are problematic.

- In the United States, **prostitution** is illegal with the exception of several counties in Nevada.

- **Gambling** is legal in many U.S. states including casinos in Nevada, New Jersey, Connecticut, North Carolina, and other states, as well as state lotteries, bingo parlors, and horse and dog racing.

- **Pornography**, particularly Internet pornography, is a growing international problem. Regulation is made difficult by fears of government censorship and legal wrangling as to what constitutes “obscenity.”
Types of Crime

Vice Crime

• Organized Crime:
  – Criminal activity conducted by members of a hierarchically arranged structure devoted primarily to making money through illegal means.
WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been called everything from a hero, to a thief, public servant, spy, and traitor. In 2010, Assange dumped over a half million documents, many previously classified, into the public eye via the Internet.
Types of Crime

White Collar Crime

• **White Collar Crimes** are those 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.
Types of Crime
White Collar Crime

- 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 untimely death at age 64.
Types of Crime

White Collar Crime

• **Insider trading** is the use of privileged (i.e., nonpublic) information by an employee of an organization that gives that employee an unfair advantage in buying, selling, and trading stocks or other securities.

• **Corporate violence** is 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 Crime

### White Collar Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of White-Collar Crime</th>
<th>Crimes Against the Public</th>
<th>Crimes Against Employers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toxic waste disposal</td>
<td>Embezzlement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution violations</td>
<td>Pilferage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax fraud</td>
<td>Misappropriation of government funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security violations</td>
<td>Counterfeit production of goods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police brutality</td>
<td>Business credit fraud</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Types of Crime

Computer Crime

- **Computer crime** is 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.
What Do You Think? Over 10 years ago, two brothers were roughhousing when suddenly it “... escalated from goofing around with a blowgun to an angry threat with a bow and arrow to the fatal thrust of a hunting knife” (Liptak & Petak 2011, p. 1). The surviving brother, who was 14 years old at the time and in seventh grade, is now in a maximum-security prison serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. In 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court held that life sentences for juveniles without the possibility of parole were in violation of the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment—except in cases that involved a killing. Do you think juveniles who kill should be able to be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole? At what age should full legal responsibility begin?
Types of Crime
Juvenile Delinquency

• In general, children younger than age 18 are handled by the juvenile courts, either as status offenders or as delinquent offenders.

• A status offense is a violation that can be committed only by a juvenile, such as running away from home, truancy, and underage drinking.

• A delinquent offense is an offense that would be a crime if committed by an adult, such as the eight index offenses.

• The most common status offenses handled in juvenile court are underage drinking, truancy, and running away.

• In 2009, 15.1% of all arrests (excluding traffic violations) were of offenders younger than age 18.
Types of Crime
Juvenile Delinquency

Figure 4.2: Factors Influencing Local Gang Violence, 2009
Demographic Patterns of Crime

• Although virtually everyone violates a law at some time, individuals with certain demographic characteristics are disproportionately represented in the crime statistics.

• Victims, for example, are disproportionately young, lower-class, minority males from urban areas.

• Similarly, the probability of being an offender varies by gender, age, race, social class, and region.
Demographic Patterns of Crime

Figure 4.3: Percentage of Arrests for Selected Crimes by Sex, Age, and Race, 2009
Source: FBI 2010a.
Demographic Patterns of Crime
Gender and Crime

• It is a universal truth that women everywhere are less likely to commit crime than men.
• In 2009, males accounted for 74.7 percent of all arrests, 81.2 percent of all arrests for violent crime, and 62.6 percent of all arrests for property crimes.
• Feminist criminology focuses on how the subordinate position of women in society affects their criminal behavior and victimization.
Demographic Patterns of Crime
Gender and Crime

- Girls who join gangs often do so to win approval from boyfriends who are gang members.
- Increasingly, they are forming independent “girl gangs.”
- The most common type of female gang member remains a female auxiliary to a male gang.
Demographic Patterns of Crime
Age and Crime

• In general, criminal activity is more prevalent among younger people than among older people.

• In 2009, 43.6 percent of all arrests in the United States were of people younger than age 25.
What Do You Think? Crime statistics are sensitive to demographic changes. For example, crime rates in the United States began to rise in the 1960s, as baby boom teenagers entered high school. That said, FBI arrest data indicate that offenders are disproportionately young males (FBI 2010a). Do you think that crime rates are a function of the number of young males in the general population? If so, do you think their elevated numbers reflect their higher rates of criminal involvement, or institutional bias in the criminal justice system?
Demographic Patterns of Crime
Race, Social Class, and Crime

• Race is a factor in who gets arrested. Minorities are disproportionately represented in official statistics.

• For example, African Americans represent about 13 percent of the population but account for 39 percent of all arrests for violent index offenses, and 30 percent of all arrests for property index offenses.
Most street gangs are local or neighborhood gangs that operate from a single location, ranging in size from just a few to several hundred members. Here, members of the Death Squad gang flash signs while at a city park in Los Angeles.
Demographic Patterns of Crime
Race, Social Class, and Crime

• **Racial profiling**—the practice of targeting suspects on the basis of race—may be responsible for their higher arrest rates.

• Proponents of the practice argue that because race, like gender, is a significant predictor of who commits crime, the practice should be allowed.

• Opponents hold that racial profiling is little more than discrimination and should, therefore, be abolished.
Demographic Patterns of Crime Region and Crime

- Crime rates are higher in metropolitan areas than in nonmetropolitan areas.
- In 2009, the violent crime rate in metropolitan statistical areas was 459 per 100,000 population; in cities in nonmetropolitan statistical areas, it was 396 per 100,000 population.
Demographic Patterns of Crime
Crime and Victimization

• According to the 2010 National Crime Victimization Survey, 45% of male victims knew their offenders compared to 70% of female victims.

• Victims who knew their offenders were most likely to classify them as “friends or acquaintances.”

• These results are, in part, a function of the tendency for females to be much more likely to report victimization by an intimate partner (26.0%) than males (5.0%).
The Costs of Crime and Social Control
Physical Injury and Loss of Life

• Crime often results in physical injury and loss of life.

• Moreover, the U.S. Public Health Service now defines violence as one of the top health concerns facing Americans.
The Costs of Crime and Social Control

Economic Costs

• Conklin (2007), suggested that the financial costs of crime can be classified into at least six categories.
  1. direct losses from crime
  2. transferring of property
  3. criminal violence
  4. illegal expenditures
  5. prevention and protection
  6. controlling crime
The Costs of Crime and Social Control
Six Economic Costs

Direct Losses from Crime
Transferring of Property
Criminal Violence

Illegal Expenditures
Prevention and Protection
Controlling Crime
The Costs of Crime and Social Control
Economic Costs

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.
The Costs of Crime and Social Control
Economic Costs

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.
The Costs of Crime and Social Control

Economic Costs

Figure 4.4:
Administration of Justice Costs, by Function, 1976–2012 (projected)*
Source: Austin 2011.
The Costs of Crime and Social Control
Social and Psychological Costs

• Crime entails social and psychological costs as well as economic costs.
• One such cost—fear—is dependent upon individual perceptions of crime as a problem.
• For example, surveys since 2001 indicate that Americans’ fear of victimization has increased even as violent and property crime rates have decreased.
The Costs of Crime and Social Control
Social and Psychological Costs

• Not only do Americans worry about crime at the aggregate level, but they also worry about crime at the individual level.

• When a random sample of Americans was asked the extent to which they worry about crime, nearly 25% of Americans responded that they would be, “afraid to walk alone at night within a mile of their home.”
# The Costs of Crime and Social Control

Social and Psychological Costs

## TABLE 4.4  Fear of Walking Alone at Night, by Gender and Household Income, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AFRAID</th>
<th>NOT AFRAID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 or more</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $30,000</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Costs of Crime and Social Control
Social and Psychological Costs

**TABLE 4.4  Fear of Walking Alone at Night, by Gender and Household Income, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 or more by gender</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000 to $49,999 by gender</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $30,000 by gender</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategies for Action
Local Initiatives

• **Youth Programs:** Early intervention programs acknowledge that preventing crime is better than “curing” it once it has occurred.

• Many youth programs are designed to engage juveniles in noncriminal activities and integrate them into the community.
Strategies for Action
Local Initiatives

• **Community Programs:** Neighborhood watch programs involve local residents in crime prevention strategies.

• For example, MAD DADS (Men Against Destruction Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder) patrol the streets in high-crime areas of the city on weekend nights, providing positive adult role models and fun community activities for troubled children.
Strategies for Action
Local Initiatives

- Community Action
  - Children and adults march down a busy street during a peace march against violence Saturday, June 9, 2001, in South Central Los Angeles.
  - Nearly two dozen organizations took part in the march.
Strategies for Action
Criminal Justice Policy

• The criminal justice system is based on the principle of **deterrence**—the use of harm or the threat of harm to prevent unwanted behaviors.

• The criminal justice system assumes that people rationally choose to commit crime, weighing the rewards and consequences of their actions.

• Thus “**get-tough**” measures hold that maximizing punishment will increase deterrence and cause crime rates to go down.
Strategies for Action
Criminal Justice Policy

• Law Enforcement Agencies: In 2009, the United States had 706,886 full-time law enforcement officers and 314,570 full-time civilian employees (e.g., clerks, meter attendants, correctional guards), yielding an estimated three law enforcement personnel per 1,000 inhabitants.

• There are over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States.
Strategies for Action
Criminal Justice Policy

• Rehabilitation vs. Incapacitation
  – An important debate concerns the primary purpose of the criminal justice system: Is it to rehabilitate offenders or to incapacitate them through incarceration?
  – Both rehabilitation and incapacitation are concerned with recidivism rates, or the extent to which criminals commit another crime.
  
  • Rehabilitation - Helping offenders rehabilitate using education and job training, individual and group therapy, substance abuse counseling, and behavior modification.
  
  • Incapacitation - Putting offender in prison.
Strategies for Action
Criminal Justice Policy

• Fear of crime has led to a public emphasis on incapacitation and a demand for tougher mandatory sentences, a reduction in the use of probation and parole, support of a “three strikes and you’re out” policy, and truth-in-sentencing laws.

• However, these tough measures have recently come under attack for three reasons.
  1. First, research indicates that incarceration may not deter crime.
  2. Second is the accusation that get-tough measures, such as California’s “three strikes and you’re out” policy, are not equally applied.
  3. Finally, in an environment of budget deficits and legislative cuts, states simply can no longer afford the policies of decades ago.
• **Corrections:** In 2010, 5 million people were under court supervisions (e.g., probation), and 2.3 million were incarcerated.
  – An examination of global rates reveals that the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world—743 per 100,000 population.
  – The U.S. rate exceeds many times over those of other countries; for example, the rate in Russia is 585, China’s rate is 120, the rate for England and Wales is 150, for Canada 117, and France and Germany, 96 and 88, respectively
  – The U.S. incarceration rate has grown at an alarming rate—700 percent between 1950 and 2005, and, despite a general decrease in crime, it is expected to continue to grow.
Strategies for Action
Criminal Justice Policy

World incarceration rates per 100,000 population:

- Russia: 585
- China: 120
- United States: 743
- Canada: 117
- France: 96
Strategies for Action
Criminal Justice Policy

• Prisons:

  In 2010, 5 million people were under court supervisions (e.g., probation), and 2.3 million were incarcerated . . . the highest incarceration rate in the world—743 prisoners per 100,000 population.
Strategies for Action
Criminal Justice Policy

• **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.

• **Parole** entails release from prison, for a specific time period and subject to certain conditions, before the inmate’s sentence is finished.
Strategies for Action
Criminal Justice Policy

Figure 4.5: Growth of Correctional Population Over the Last 20 Years

NOTE: Due to offenders with dual status, the sum of these four correctional categories slightly understates the total correctional population.
What Do You Think? Christian Longo, 37, admits to brutally killing his wife and three children, and was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Now he wants to donate his organs to save the lives of some of the over 100,000 people waiting for transplants but the State of Oregon will not allow it (Hanrahan 2011; UNOS 2011). There are concerns that some of the lethal injection drugs used in the execution might damage his organs, and that if permitted, prisoners would start selling their organs to the highest bidder. Says Mr. Longo, “If I donated all of my organs today, I could clear nearly 1 percent of my state’s organ waiting list. I am 37 years old and healthy; throwing my organs away after I am executed is nothing but a waste.” (Hanrahan 2011, p. 1) What do you think?
Strategies for Action
Criminal Justice Policy

- **Capital Punishment:** With capital punishment, the state takes the life of a person as punishment for a crime.
- In 2008, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and the United States were responsible for 93% of all executions worldwide and, in 2010, more than two-thirds of the world’s countries had abolished capital punishment.
- The United States is the only western industrialized nation in the world to retain the death penalty.
- In 2010, 46 inmates were executed in the United States, one less than in 2009.
- Of the 36 states that have the death penalty, 34 and the federal government almost exclusively use lethal injection as the method of execution.
Figure 4.6: Capital Punishment around the World, 2011
Source: Amnesty International 2011a.
Legislative Action

• Gun Control
  – In 2010, when a national sample of U.S. adults were asked about gun control, 50% responded that controlling gun ownership was more important than protecting the rights of gun owners, 47% the reverse.
  – Those against gun control argue that not only do citizens have a constitutional right to own guns but also that more guns may actually lead to less crime as would-be offenders retreat in self-defense when confronted.
Legislative Action

• Major legislative initiatives have been passed in recent years, including the 1994 **Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act**, which created community policing, “three strikes and you’re out,” and truth-in-sentencing laws.

• Other significant crime-related legislation:
  – **Medicare Fraud Enforcement and Prevention Act**.
  – **Preventing Gun Violence Act**.
  – **Safety from Sex Offenders Act**.
  – **Nicole’s Law**.
  – **Child Gun Safety and Gun Access Prevention Act**.
Quick Quiz

1. According to your text, which is the most common crime?
   A. rape
   B. theft
   C. murder
   D. arson
Answer: B

- **Theft** is the most common crime.
Quick Quiz

2. Which crimes are considered victimless crimes?
   A. street crimes
   B. vice crimes
   C. white collar crimes
   D. violent crimes
Answer: B

- **Vice crimes** are considered victimless crimes.
Quick Quiz

3. Advocates of incapacitation believe recidivism can be reduced by:
   
   A. capital punishment.
   B. changing the criminal.
   C. utilizing half way houses.
   D. placing the offender in prison.
Answer: D

- Advocates of incapacitation believe recidivism can be reduced by placing the offender in prison.
Quick Quiz

4. Which mode of adaptation is most associated with criminal behavior?

A. conformity
B. ritualism
C. retreatism
D. innovation
Answer: D

- **Innovation** is the mode most associated with criminal behavior.
Quick Quiz

5. Crime strengthens group cohesion, provides employment opportunities, and acts as a catalyst for social change. Which sociological perspective would focus on the benefits of crime?

A. symbolic interactionism
B. structural functionalism
C. exchange theory
D. conflict theory
Answer: B

• Crime strengthens group cohesion, provides employment opportunities, and acts as a catalyst for social change. The **structural functionalism** perspective would focus on the benefits of crime.
Quick Quiz

6. Carol steals a candy bar from a drugstore. She is apprehended. When Carol returns to school, no one wants to talk to her. Carol finds acceptance among a group of girls who shoplift. While hanging out with them, Carol joins in the shoplifting. This is an example of which theory?

A. labeling theory
B. strain theory
C. association
D. control theory
Answer: A

- This is an example of labeling theory.
Quick Quiz

7. Price-fixing, anti-trust violations and "churning" are examples of what type of crime?
   A. corporate violence
   B. corporate crime
   C. victimless crime
   D. organized crime
Answer: B

- Price-fixing, anti-trust violations and "churning" are examples of corporate crime.