

# Chapter 3

Measuring Crime and Criminal Behaviour

CRM 101 – Understanding Crime in Canada

Lecture 2 – January 26, 2023



# Lecture Outline

- Brief activity
- What do we know about crime?
- Measurement strategies for Criminologists.
- Quantitative vs. Qualitative approaches.
  - Official Data
  - Unofficial data
  - Ethnography / Field observations



# Where will you invest?







- Crime rates can impact important personal decisions, and societal indicators (i.e. property values)
- Crime rates can impact where business located
- Crime rates can influence area development, police resources, citizen movement.
- Can also lead to discrimination (by postal code) assumptions are made that those who reside within high crime areas, engage in crime.



# FACTS?

- Violent crime has increased significantly over the past decade. (Statistics Canada, 2021)
- Fear of crime is increasing among Canadians (National Justice Survey, 2019)
- People think their own neighbourhood is relatively safe (General Social Survey, 2019)
- Most Canadians get their information about crime from the media (National Justice Survey, 2017).
- A significant portion of Canadians think that immigrants commit more crime than those born in Canada (Jung, 2020)











**TORONTO**  
**SUN**  
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023

**WHY DID SHE DIE?**  
 WARMINGTON >> **PAGE 5**

**BAD BOY** WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE  
**MOVING SALE!**  
 112,000 SQ. FT. OF INVENTORY **MUST GO**  
**ON NOW \$90** 0% OFF  
 HURRY IN & SAVE  
 1ST EVER ONE LOCATION ONLY  
 500 FENMAR DRIVE  
**LOWEST PRICES**  
 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



**Fed-up premiers demand feds reform lax laws that see accused gunmen walk free**

**FIX BAIL RULES!**

**LILLEY >> PAGE 6**

 **PinkCherry**

**Valentine's Day Sale**  
 UP TO 80% OFF SITEWIDE

After Code  
**LOVE**



# Why Criminologists Need Data: Five Key Purposes

1. **Description:** describing criminal phenomena.
2. **Explanation:** explaining crime patterns and trends.
3. **Evaluation:** determining how the CJS is working.
4. **Risk Assessment:** calculating relative risk of being victimized.
5. **Prediction:** preventing crime.



# Official Sources of Crime Data for Criminologists

- The most common measures of crime are the official statistics collected primarily by the various elements of the CJS:
  1. Police statistics
  2. Judicial statistics
  3. Correctional statistics



# Police Statistics

- Police reports are the most frequent source of official crime data.
- **Dark figure of crime:** Crime that goes undetected, unreported, or unrecorded, and that is thus not included in official sources.
- Two main sources of police statistics:
  1. Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)
  2. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS)





# Police Statistics, cont'd

- Police crime statistics are divided into three categories:
  1. **Summary offences** carry a maximum penalty of six months in jail and/or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 (unless a different penalty is specified).
  2. **Indictable offences** carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and no maximum fine.
  3. **Hybrid offences** consist of crimes such as impaired driving and theft under \$5,000, which the Crown may choose to prosecute as either summary or indictable.



# UCR DATA

- Compiled by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS).
- 100% compliance rate from 1,800 different police agencies across the country.
- Represents criminal incidents that have been substantiated by a police investigation.
- Criminal incidents are either “reported to” or “discovered by” the police.
- Criminal incidents are reported to the CCJS at the end of each month. The CCJS compiles and analyzes these data. National and regional crime reports are released to the public every year.



# UCR DATA

- 1984 – revised UCR introduced. More detailed information on offender and victim characteristics, offender-victim relationship, time and location of crime, etc.
- Three important terms: 1) *crime counts*; 2) *percentage change*; and 3) *crime rates*.



# Which City is More Violent?

- Smallville: Population = 10,000 citizens; Number of murders in 2004 = 5.
- Bigtown: Population = 2 million citizens; Number of Murders in 2004 = 250.





# The Crime Rate

**CRIME RATE =**

*Number of Crimes* (the count)  
divided by *Population Size*  
Times 100,000



# Which City is More Violent?

- Smallville has a homicide rate of *50 per 100,000 population*. By contrast, Bigtown has a homicide rate of only *12.5 per 100,000*.
- Thus, although Bigtown has many more murders (250) than Smallville (5), the actual probability of being killed is four times greater in Smallville.



# Toronto vs. Thunder Bay

- Total *homicides* in Toronto in 2019=78;
- Total *homicides* in Thunder Bay in 2019=7;
- Toronto population=2,732,000;
- Thunder Bay population=107,910;
- Toronto's homicide rate=2.8 per 100,000;
- Thunder Bay's homicide rate=6.5 per 100,000;



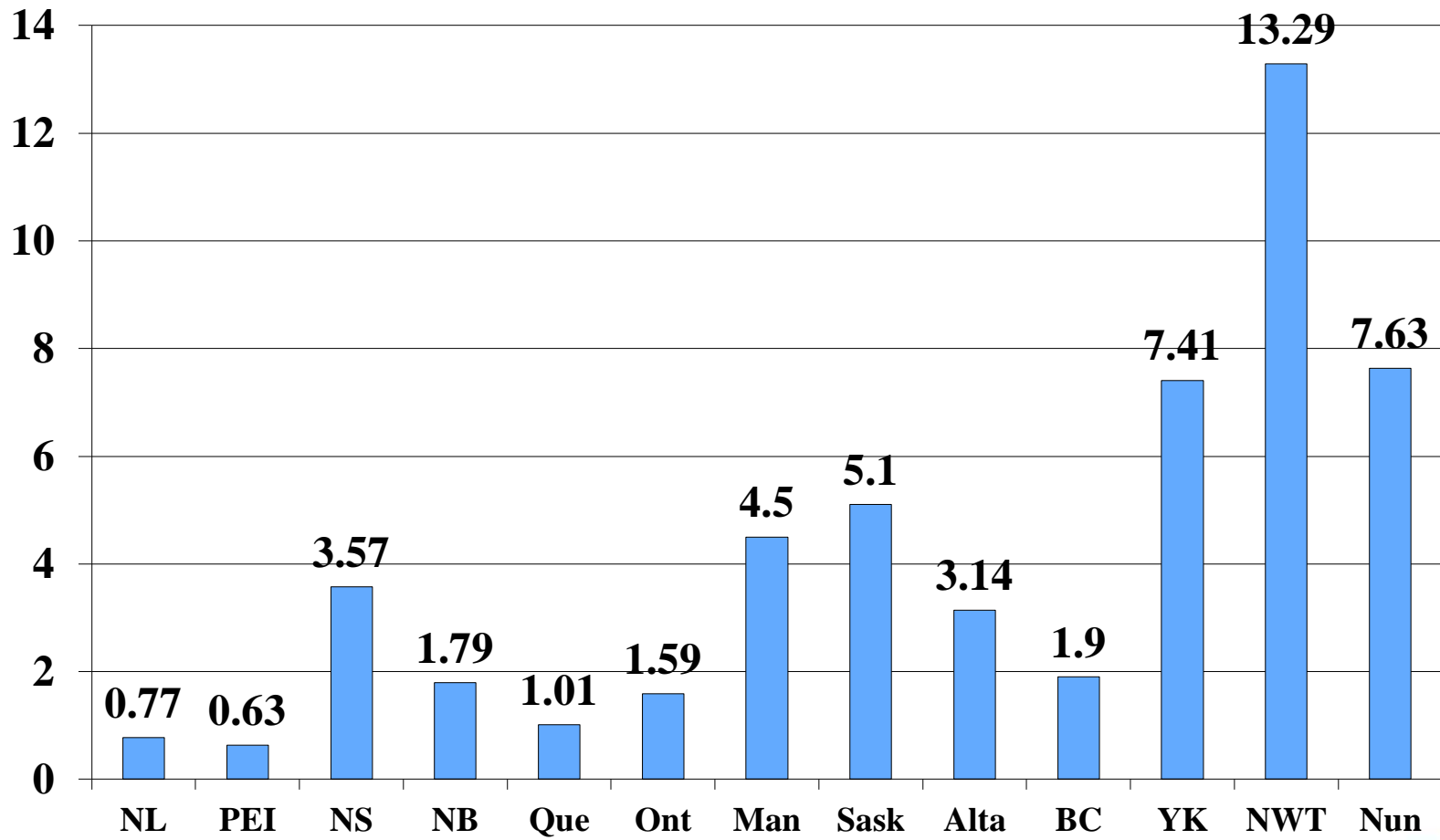
# Toronto vs. Chicago

- Total *homicides* in Toronto in 2019=**78**;
- Total *homicides* in Chicago in 2019=**510**;
- Toronto population=2,732,000;
- Chicago population=2,693,900;
- Toronto's homicide rate=**2.8 per 100,000**;
- Chicago's homicide rate=**18.9 per 100,000**;

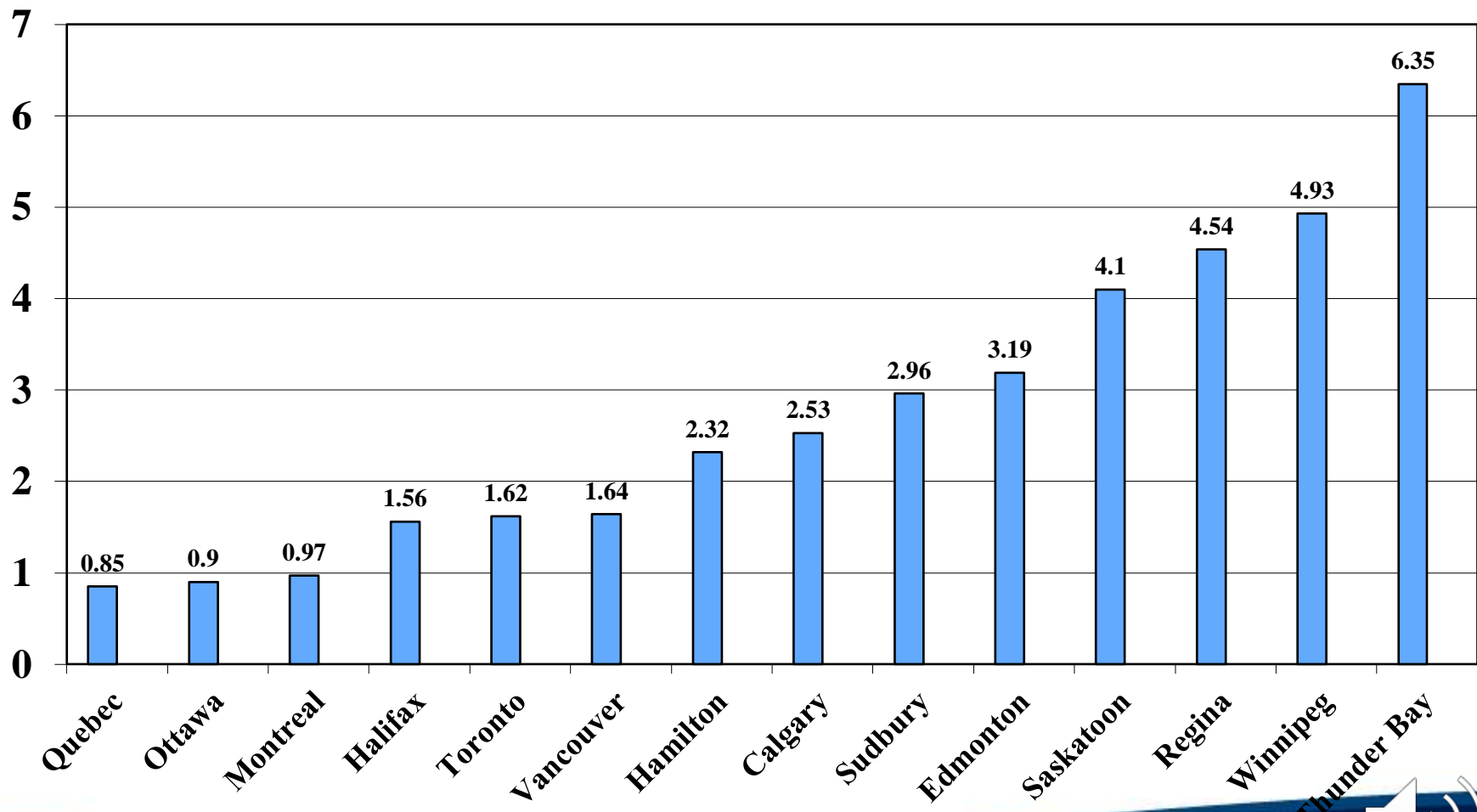




# 2020 Canadian Homicide Rates (per 100,000), by Province



# 2020 Canadian Homicide Rates (per 100,000), by Major Metropolitan Area





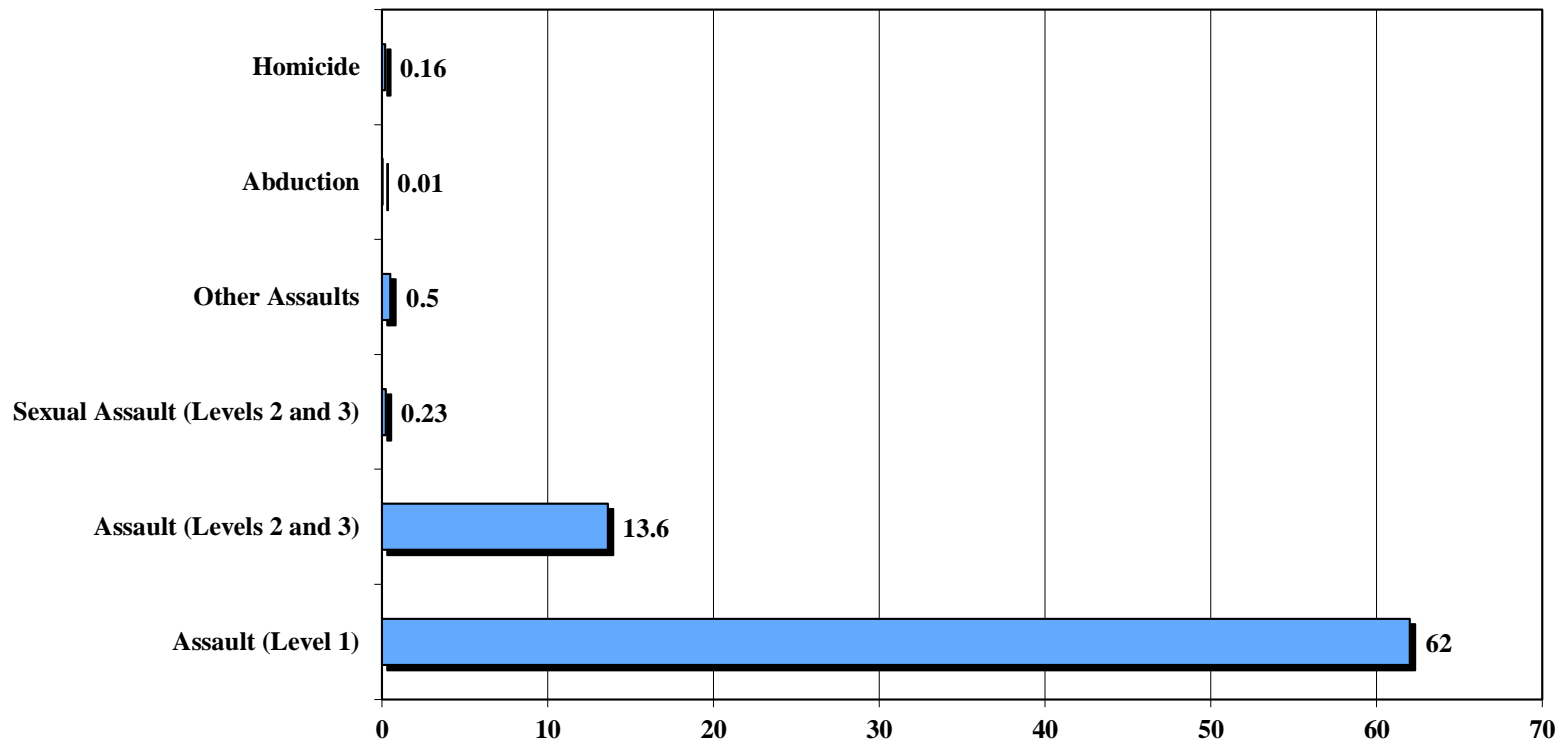
# 2018 – A New Record?

- In 2018, Toronto recorded a record # of homicides (96). Previous high was 89 (1991). However, Toronto would need to record 111 homicides to break the 1991 homicide rate record of 3.79 per 100,000;
- Reaching a 111 homicides is possible -- but highly unlikely over the next decade;
- In 2022 there were 70 homicides in Toronto, compared to 85 the previous year (**down by almost 18%**)





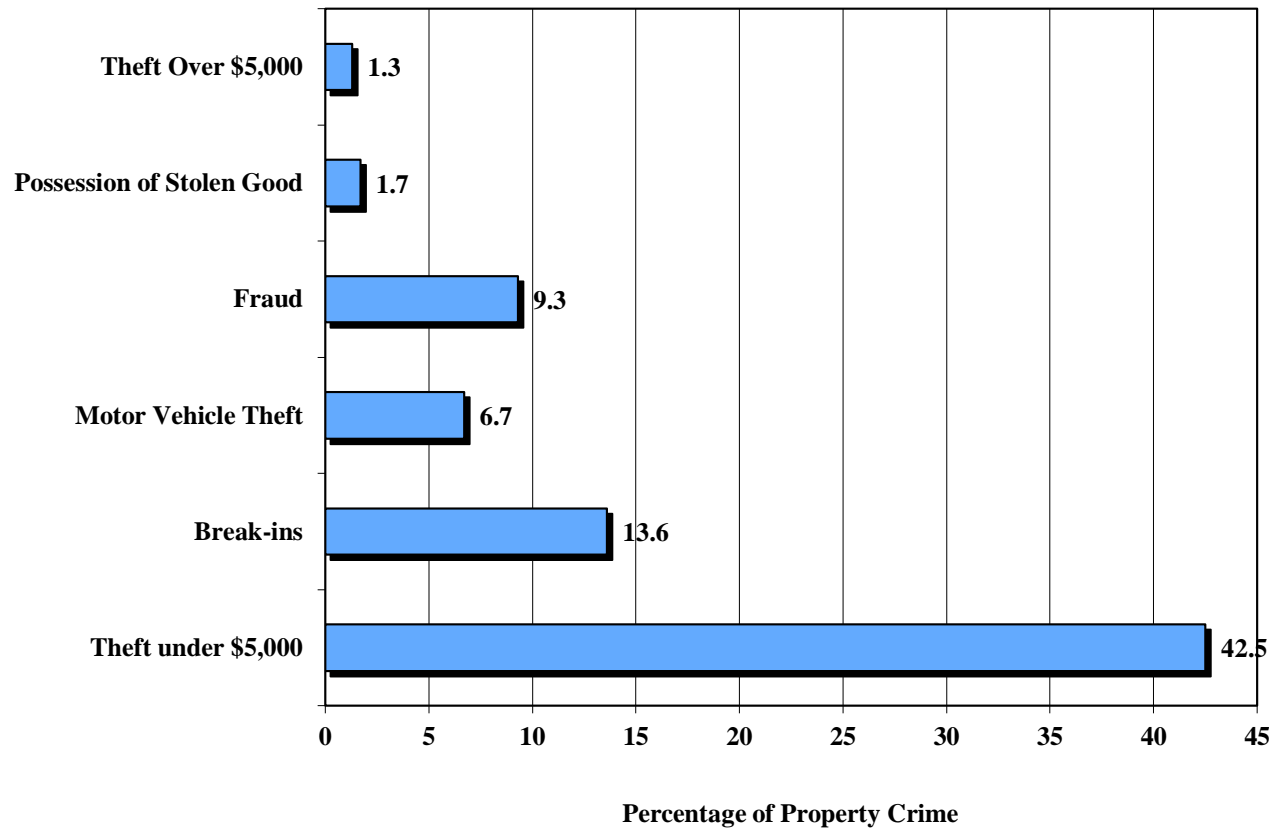
# Violent Crime by Category, Canada 2016



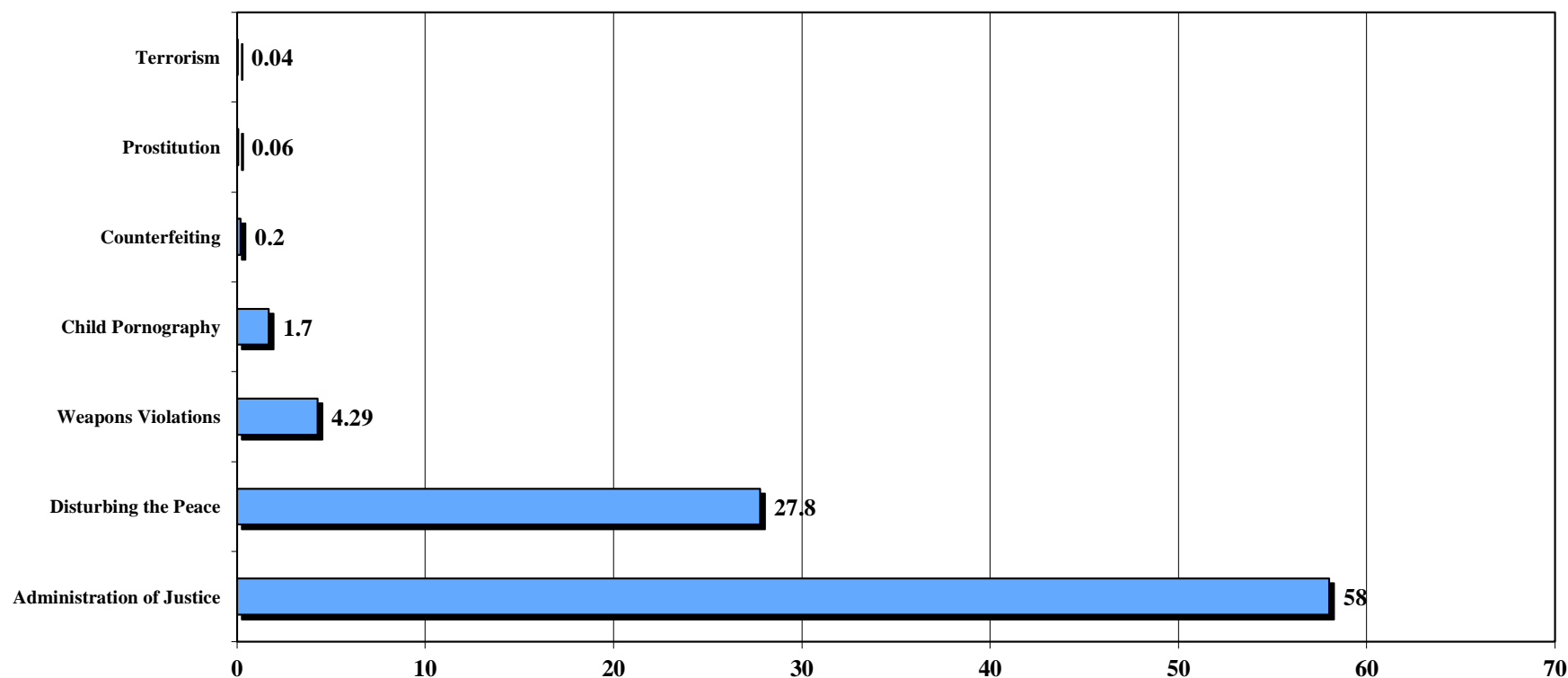
Percentage of Violent Crime



# Property Crime by Category, Canada 2016



# Other Criminal Code Offences by Category, Canada 2016



Percentage of Other Crime



# Judicial Statistics

- Historically, court records were the first type of official crime statistics to be collected.
- Information gathered includes the number of charges and convictions that appeared before the courts, as well as the offender's gender, income, education, and occupation.



# Correctional Statistics

- Data on people being held in federal and provincial corrections facilities, including age, gender, offence, and prior conviction.

What's missing?



# Strengths of UCR Data

- Standardized reporting practices permit comparisons over time and place.
- Centralized reporting agency.
- Revised UCR helps us better understand where and when crime takes place.
- Crime trends analysis can identify emerging problems and contribute to policy development.





# Weaknesses of UCR Data

- Non-reporting of crime. Most criminal incidents become known when civilians make a report to the police. Unfortunately, most crimes are not reported.
- When institutional reporting practices change – as they did under the *Safe Schools Act* – the rates for certain types of crime will appear to increase.
- UCR statistics also reflect the nature of police activity. When the police change their focus, some crimes will appear to increase, while others will appear to drop.



# Weaknesses of UCR Data

- Changing legal definitions (often make international comparisons difficult).
- UCR reports often vary with respect to accuracy and completeness.
- Only the most serious crime is recorded.
- UCR does not report statistics on financial, corporate or environmental crime;



# Unofficial Sources of Crime Data

- **Unofficial crime data:** crime data not collected by official criminal justice agencies, usually to explain existing official data and verify the validity of official sources.
  - Victimization data
  - Self-report data
  - Observational methods



# Canadian General Social Survey

## Victimization

- Only national survey of self-reported victimization and is collected in all provinces and territories.
- Survey allows for estimates of the numbers and characteristics of victims and criminal incidents.
- Measures both crime incidents that come to the attention of the police and those that are unreported.
- Also helps to understand the reasons behind whether or not people report a crime to the police.



# Toronto Youth Crime Victimization Survey

Demographic Characteristics	Percent of Sample
<b><u>GENDER</u></b>	
Male	50.1
Female	49.9
<b><u>PLACE OF BIRTH</u></b>	
Canada	54.0
Other Country	46.0
<b><u>RACIAL BACKGROUND</u></b>	
White	38.7
Black	13.5
South Asian	12.4
Asian	18.3
West Asian	4.0
Latin American	4.4
Other Racial Minority	8.6
<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>3,390</b>



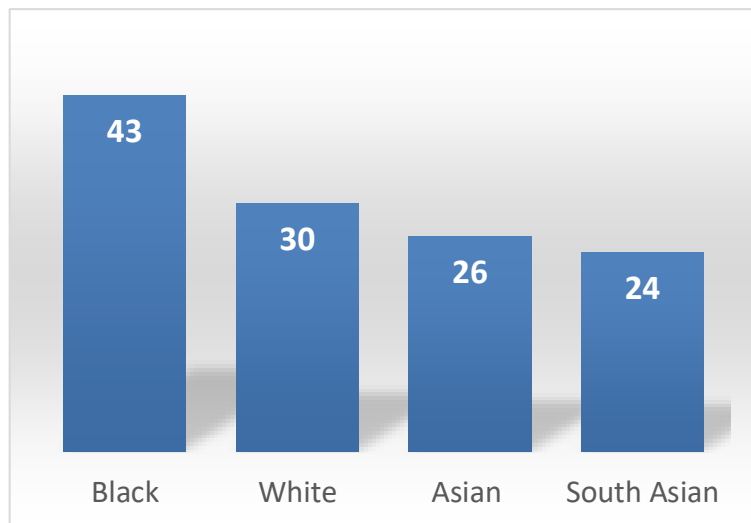
# Worst Victimization Incident

- *Please think of the worst thing that has ever happened to you that might be considered a crime or an act of violence. Please describe the event or incident you are thinking about.”*
  - A third of Black females reported that their worst victimization experience involved a physical assault (32.7%), compared to 24.3% of South Asians, 23.6% of Asians and 21.6% of White respondents.
  - Similarly, almost half of the Black female respondents (47.8%) reported that their worst victimization involved “rape” or “sexual assault,” compared 34.9% of South Asians, 31.3% of Whites and 23.2% of Asians.

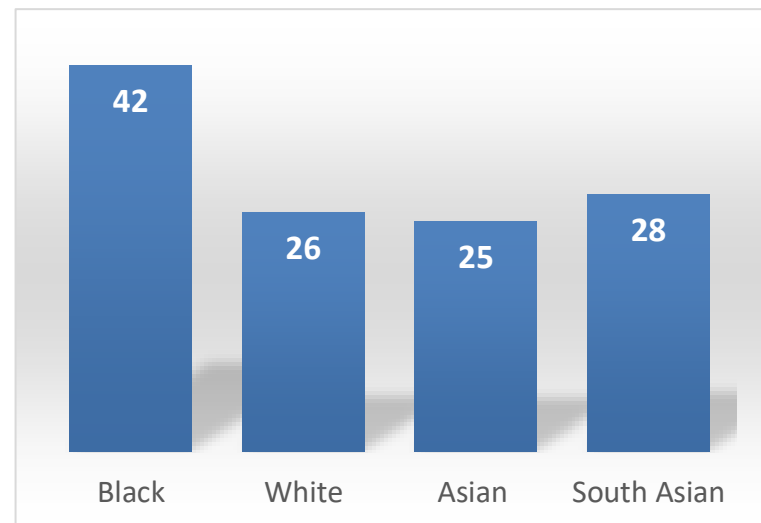




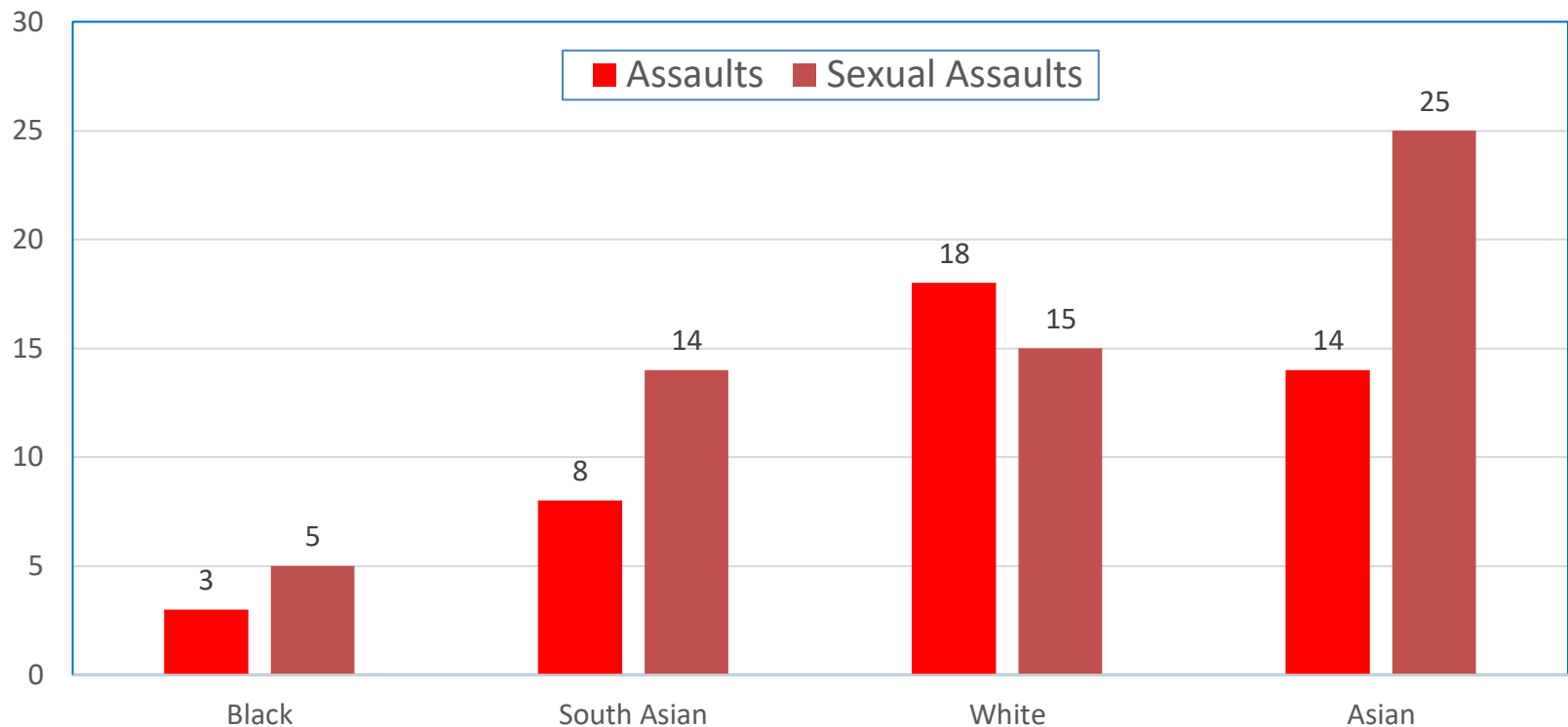
### Physical Victimization



### Sexual Victimization



## Percent of Female Respondents Who Reported Their Worst Victimization Experience to the Police, By Race



# Victimization Data, cont'd

- Limitations of victimization surveys
  - Respondents may forget about crimes.
  - Respondents may be mistaken as to when the incident occurred.
  - Respondents may not feel comfortable disclosing certain facts and/or details.
  - Respondents may not fully understand the questions.
  - There may be variations in how different social groups of respondents reply to the questions.
  - Surveys tend to be both time-consuming and costly.
  - Acquiring stable estimates of less common crimes requires larger samples, which add to the already high cost.



# Self-Report Data

- Self-report studies use surveys in which individuals are asked to voluntarily disclose whether they have ever committed an offence.
- Such unofficial crime data can shed light on undetected and underreported types of crime.
- In Canada, self-report surveys have been limited and tend to focus on youths and adolescents.



# Self-Report Data, cont'd

- Limitations of self-report studies
  - Respondents may mistrust the interviewers.
  - They may not answer truthfully because of embarrassment.
  - Those who feel a deep sense of guilt may not disclose their behaviour.
  - Respondents may exaggerate the truth, especially if they are young.
  - They may simply have forgotten.



# Observational Data

- Qualitative research
  - Research designed to study characteristics that cannot be measured or counted.
  - Pioneered by Max Weber, who emphasized the importance of understanding how individuals interpret their own actions and the actions/reactions of others.





# Observational Data, cont'd

- Field observation and participant observation are the two most common observational methods.
  1. **Field observation:** the objective is to collect data (i.e. observe people or conduct interviews) about a phenomenon in the environment in which it occurs.
  2. **Participant observation:** involves a researcher taking part in the activity or social group under study.



# Participant Observation vs. Field Observation

Field Observation	Participant Observation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Involves a variety of methods:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Extended fieldwork.</li><li>- Formal / Informal interviewing.</li></ul></li><li>- Typically the only research methodology employed by the researcher.</li><li>- Data collection is long-term and focused on a particular group or community.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A type of ethnography.</li><li>- Research moves beyond observing from a distance to becoming involved with the activities of participants.</li><li>- Can be used as a component of a mixed-method approach.</li><li>- Can be used across various sites during the same project.</li></ul>



# Strengths Observation Studies

- Can better understand the lived-experiences of participants and how they interpret the social world.
- Can help to document the culture and way of life of a group.
- Can give voice to marginalized groups.
- Can help to identify discrepancies between what people say and what they do.



# Observational Data, cont'd

- Limitations of observational data
  - The data are subjective.
  - Sample sizes tend to be considerably smaller and as a result, there is no allowance for generalizations beyond the study group.
  - Some observational techniques are used in ways that have raised serious ethical questions.
  - It tends to be much more labour-intensive than administering victimization or self-report surveys.



Crime data are essential to explaining crime trends and patterns, as well as to developing criminological theory and formulating social policy.



# Remember!

- **Next Monday** is our first online mini-quiz.
- Will be made available to you starting at 10:00 am
- You have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. I suggest you start no later than 11:29 pm, as the quiz will close at 11:59 pm.
- Quiz will cover readings and lecture material from Class 1 and 2.





# Chapter 5

Major Schools of Modern Criminological Thought

Lecture 3 – February 2, 2023

# Lecture Outline

- What is a theory
- Common theoretical debates
- Development of the Classical School
- Positivist tradition
- Neo-classical school
- Rational Choice in Crime
- Criminal Justice Reforms

# What is a theory?

- What is theory?
  - An explanation of observed regularities or patterns
- Common components of a theory
  - Definitions: What are the key terms?
  - Descriptions: What are the characteristics?
  - Relational statements: How are variables related?
    - Deterministic
    - Probabilistic

# Common theoretical debates

- Tension between theories that focus on structure and theories that focus on process
- Conflicting assumptions about human nature
- Different conceptions of the link between society and individual behavior
- Degree of social consensus.

# Crime in the Dark Ages

- Mores and Folkways dominate feudal communities. The “law” varies from region to region.
- Serious crimes explained in spiritual terms: the battle between good and evil. Demonology is very popular.
- ***Trephination:*** An early form of neural surgery designed to release evil spirits dwelling in the heads of offenders.

# Crime in the Dark Ages

- Guilt often determined by “ordeals.” Ordeal by water, ordeal by fire, ordeal by battle, etc.
- The age of brutal public punishment and torture (the pillory, beheading, hanging, mutilation, etc.).
- Chaotic, arbitrary justice. Local economic and religious elites use the “justice” system to eliminate their enemies and maintain power.

# The Enlightenment

- The Renaissance brought the spread of more rational, scientific, and humanistic ways of thinking.
- By the 18th century, traditional doctrines of absolute obedience to authority were increasingly challenged, as were the prevailing concepts of justice.

# The Classical School

- A perspective premised on the belief that potential criminals, being rational beings capable of free will, will be deterred by the threat of swift, severe punishment.
- Emerged in response to the harsh, retributive nature of punishments in the 18th century.



# Beccaria's Key Ideas

- Beccaria embraced this concept, arguing that most potential offenders would be deterred if three basic conditions were met:
  1. Certainty of punishment
  2. Swiftness of justice
  3. Fair penalties proportionate to the severity of the social harm done

# Beccaria's Key Ideas, cont'd

- Beccaria's doctrine is characterized by four general principles:
  1. **Equality:** all offenders must be treated equally, without consideration of personal character or motive.
  2. **Liberty:** "Only the law can decree punishment for crime."
  3. **Utilitarianism:** the purpose of punishment should be "to instill fear in other men."
  4. **Humanitarianism:** punishment should be not only fair but humane.

# An Enduring Influence

- Bentham and utilitarianism
  - The concept that any law should be of the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people.
  - Punishment is justified if it prevents more social harm than it produces.

# Evaluating of the Classical School

- Deterrence theory
  - Refers to the belief that the threat of punishment can prevent people from committing a crime.
  - Maintains that behaviour is governed by its consequences
  - Research on deterrence has been inconclusive, at best.

# The Positivist School

- A school of criminological thought whose adherents use the scientific method to measure behaviour and advocate rehabilitation over punishment.
- Free will is limited.
- Human behaviour is thus a function of internal and external forces that are beyond individual control.

# Lombroso and His Contemporaries

- **Biological determinism:** a doctrine that denies free will while maintaining that our decisions are decided by predictable and/or inherited causes that act on our character.

# The Neoclassical School

- Assumes free will, and believes that some accused offenders should be exonerated or treated leniently in light of situations or circumstances that make it impossible to exercise free will.
- Endorsed most principles of the classical school with two fundamental differences:
  1. Rejected the rigidity of the classical system of punishment.
  2. Called for **discretion**—the power of an authority to exercise his or her judgement in a particular case instead of having to follow specific rules.

# The Neoclassical School, cont'd

- **Just deserts:** the premise that an individual who commits an offence chooses to do so and therefore deserves to be punished for it.
- **Plea bargain:** an arrangement between the defence and prosecution in which the accused agrees to plead guilty in return for some benefit, such as a reduced sentence.



# Is Crime Rational?

## *Supporting Evidence*

- The location of criminal activity.
- The characteristics of crime victims.
- The learning of criminal techniques.

# Is Crime Rational?

## *Conflicting Evidence*

- How can we explain expressive – illogical -- violence?
- How can we explain self-destructive behaviours like drug addiction?
- How can we explain high rates of re-offending among those who have received harsh punishments?
- The theory seems to focus on short-term gains rather than long-term consequences.

# What Makes a Person “Deterrable”?

1. Must be a rational thinker. Must be intellectually mature;
2. Must be conscious of the long-term consequences of their actions;
3. Must care about what other people think (informal deterrence);
4. Must have a stake in conformity. Must have something to lose;

# Legal Reform

- Isaac Ray
  - The legal definition of insanity was so limited in its scope that lawyers were ill-equipped to assess mental disorders and that expert medical testimony was required in cases involving insanity pleas.
  - **Moral insanity:** A form of mental illness in which the offender's ability to reason is temporarily interrupted; basis of modern verdicts of “not criminally responsible”

Not Criminally Responsible: Jeffrey Arenburg –  
The Man Who Hears Voices  
(46 minutes)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lFY\\_98xC6jc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lFY_98xC6jc)

# Consider the following

- Arguments in favour of the Not Criminally Responsible because of Mental Disorder (NCRMD) designation as a legal mechanism,
- Arguments *AGAINST* the use of NCRMD and in favour of modifying legislation.
- Do you see any similarities with regard to current discussions over bail reform?

# Chapter 6 & 7

Biosocial and Psychological  
Approaches to Crime

Lecture 4 - February 9, 2023

# Lecture Outline

- Peer note-taker request
- “Pick a theory” assignment details
- Biosocial approaches to crime
- Psychological approaches to crime



# Introduction

- Biological factors that have been linked to criminal behaviour fall into two groups:
  1. Those assuming a direct heritable link
  2. Those associated with some external or environmental factor
    - **Biosocial factors:** Factors resulting from the interaction of individual biological and social characteristics (i.e. determinants), which predispose individuals to certain behaviours.

# The Foundations of Biological Determinism

- **Biological determinism:** the idea that individual physical and mental characteristics are governed solely by heredity.
- **Somatotyping:** the practice of attempting to draw connections between a person's behaviour or temperament and the individual's body type or physique.

# Contemporary Biosocial Theories

- Bio-social theories are more complex and sophisticated.
- Learning, mood, and behavioural motivations are influenced by bio-chemistry and cell interactions.
- Biosocial criminologists assert that humans have brains, genes, hormones, and an evolutionary history, and therefore influence behaviours

# Bio-chemical factors

## Vitamins

- Researchers have looked at the effects of an excess or undersupply of vitamins as well as studies on the relationship between food allergies and antisocial behaviour.
- A growing body of evidence links nutrition to mental development and also to crime.
  - Evidence suggests that environmental and/or psychosocial factors may play mitigating roles.

# Minerals

- Excessive exposure to, or high intake of, some common minerals has been linked to learning disabilities, cognitive deficits, and aggression.
  - Cadmium
  - Copper
  - Lead
  - Magnesium
  - Manganese
  - Zinc

# Diet, Toxins, and Food Additives

- The most frequently documented example of a nutritional defect that may be a source of crime is hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar.
  - Violent delinquent behaviour might be related to bioenvironmental factors.
  - On average, juvenile offenders ingested 32% more sugar than youths with behavioural disorders but no criminal records.
- “Cop blames low blood sugar for threatening to taser men in genitals” - Toronto Star (June 14, 2011)

# Brain Chemistry

- The brain is responsible for managing all the hormones released from the pituitary gland.
- Researchers have studied
  - The influence of hormonal changes on female behaviour.
  - The link between testosterone levels and aggression
  - The link between low serotonin levels and violent or impulsive and suicidal behaviour.

# The “gender” argument

- Male hormone levels – extra testosterone – also been used to explain gender differences.
- Argues that high testosterone levels
  - 1) lowers resting arousal level
  - 2) lowers brain seizure function, which may make you irrational
  - 3) Rightward shift to the cortical functioning, being towards the side of the brain that is more totalitarian as opposed to the left which is more empathic to others.



# Substance Abuse

- Three-quarters of the federally incarcerated population enter the system with substance abuse problems.
  - Many of these cases have had direct links between the substance abuse and their criminal behaviour.
- Drugs and alcohol correlate highly with aggression and risk of suicide, homicide, MVAs, and domestic violence; however, there is no clear causal relationship.
- The data show drug and/or alcohol abuse does increase the extent and seriousness of any related crime.

# Genetic Research

- Positivists were spurred on by the development of new methods of measurement, which would be required to study the link between criminal behaviour and sex chromosomal abnormalities.
- XYY chromosome theory
  - The theory that the extra Y chromosome found in some males predisposes them to criminal or antisocial behaviour.

# The myth of the supermale and the extra ‘Y’ chromosome

<https://www.vox.com/2015/2/25/8103965/genetics-crime-xyy>

(4 minutes)

# Twin and Adoption Studies

- Some studies compare the personality traits of identical vs fraternal twins.
- Others compare the records of adoptees with those of their biological and adoptive parents.
- Although the research evidence pointing to a genetic link between identical twins and criminality is suggestive, it is not conclusive. While heredity plays a role, environment also has an influence.

# The Brain and Behaviour

- Studies have been conducted that attempt to find a link between criminal behaviour and
  - EEG (Electroencephalograph) abnormalities
  - Intelligence
  - Personality

# EEG Abnormalities

- Hill and Pond found that approximately half of serious offenders studied had abnormal EEGs.
  - However, since they did not use a control group, no conclusions could be drawn from these findings.
- Longitudinal research conducted in Scandinavia confirms the existence of a relationship between low levels of brain arousal and certain crimes.
- Low arousal levels have also been linked to psychopathic behaviour and criminality.

# The Birth of Sociobiology/Biosociology

- Wilson (1975) defined biosociology as “the systematic study of the biological basis of all social behaviour.”
  - Our genetic makeup predisposes us not only to protect our own kin but to eliminate those who appear as threats at birth.
  - We can control innate aggression by designing our population's densities and social systems in such a way as to make aggression inappropriate in most conceivable daily circumstances and, hence, less adaptive.

# Evolution Theory and Crime – an example

Lions take over and kill cubs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nraZzGD8BmM>

(2 minutes)

\*trigger warning – animal harmed



# Psychological Theories

- Four psychological orientations
  1. Psychodynamic
  2. Behavioural personality
  3. Behavioural personality
  4. Moral development
- They all tend to focus their examination on basic components of human nature that are viewed as characteristic of the human species.

# Freud's Intrapsychic Approach: Psychodynamics

- **Psychodynamic theory:** Sigmund Freud's theory that behaviour is an expression of internal conflict stemming from unresolved, often unconscious experiences during childhood.
- The three basic elements of personality:
  1. **Id:** primitive, instinctual urges
  2. **Ego:** the rational, conscious dimension that mediates between the id and the superego
  3. **Superego:** the moral and ethical dimension of personality

# Freud's Intrapsychic Approach: Psychodynamics, cont'd

- Criminal behaviour is seen as an indication of a personality conflict and the product of an uncontrolled id.
- Early childhood experiences most directly affect later psychological development.
- Some forms of delinquent behaviour may be the result of traumatic experiences, or displaced hostility and/or unconscious desire for punishment to relieve guilt.

# Freud and Human Psychosexual Development

- Five stages of child development that influence our psychosexual development:
  1. Oral
  2. Anal
  3. Phallic
  4. Sexual latency
  5. Genital
- Problems experienced during these phases could trigger psychological problems that could lead to unacceptable and even criminal behaviour.

# Freudian Explanations

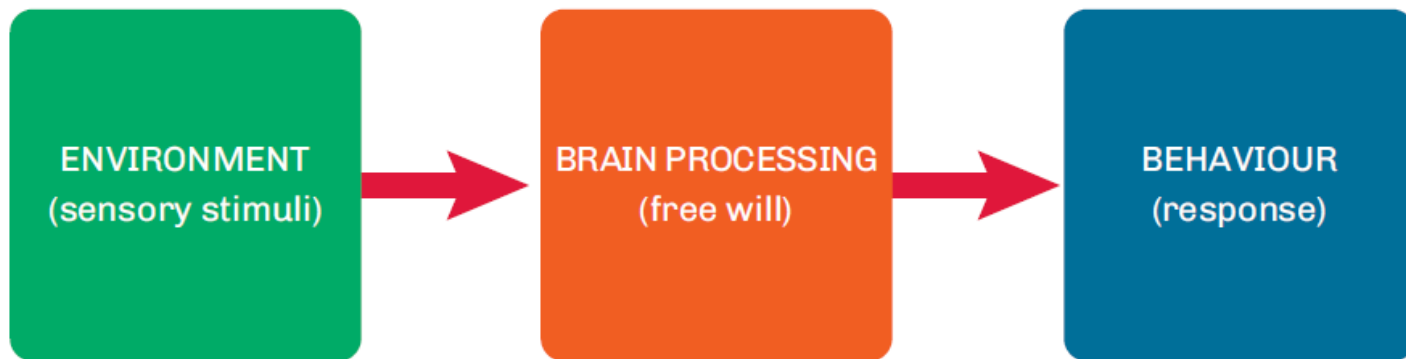
- Criminal behaviour is the product of an uncontrolled id; a form of neurosis.
- Criminal activity may be an alternative way of satisfying needs that were not fulfilled by the criminal's family.
- Some criminal behaviour is the result of traumatic experiences (memories are repressed).
- Some criminal behaviour may be the result of displaced hostility and/or an unconscious desire for punishment.
- Criminals have an unconscious need to alleviate their sense of guilt and anxiety.

# Learning Theories

- **Learning theory:** a broad category of psychological study that comprises various schools focusing on different aspects of the learning process.
- Three primary types of learning theory:
  1. Behavioural
  2. Cognitive
  3. Moral development

# Behavioural Explanations

- **Behavioural learning theory:** a psychological theory maintaining that all behaviour is learned through some type of external stimulus (negative or positive).



**FIGURE 7.2** Simplified Model of Behavioural Learning

# What influences behaviours?

- Parents
- Peers – pro-crime attitudes
- Media?



# Cognitive Explanations

- **Cognition:** A psychological term that refers to the mental processes—including attention, perception, memory, and language—through which we organize our thoughts and make sense of the world around us.

Studies will examine:

- Personality and Crime
- IQ and Crime

# Moral Development Explanations

- Learning-based and process-oriented theories of crime.
- Central theme of these theories is their focus on the individual's development and on developmental stages of a sense of morality and responsibility.
- **Moral development theory:** The theory that morality develops in stages.

# Policy Implications

- Focus is on individual criminal behaviour
- This has led to a rise in the treatment industry – medical specialists, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, therapists, drug treatment experts, counsellors etc.
- Intensive use of pharmaceuticals and medical treatments within the correctional system

# Criticisms of biosocial and psychological theories

- Race, gender, and social class bias
- A focus on violent or sexual crimes.
- Ignores social factors that might explain crime
- Can't account for crime changes in crime over time and place. Violent crime is decreasing – do psychological theories help explain this?

# CRM 101

# Understanding Crime in Canada

MEASURING CRIME AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR

MONDAY JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2023



“Why Can’t anyone agree on the crime rate”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ck7Jt9kCzMk>



# Canadian Crime Rates

Rising Crime Rates in Canada

“Canadian Crime Rate takes a hike for first time since 2003”  
(CTV News)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m85ZJ3AqMil>



# Political play

## Crimes rates and the political agenda

Example how crime rates are used and distorted by politicians.

“Poilievre is calling for justice reforms”

CP24

**(Only need to view the first 3 minutes and 45 seconds of the video)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5o273SMpj0>





# Accurate picture of crime in Canada

Police reported crime statistics in Canada, 2021

Statistics Canada data

(note – violent crime rate is being driven by an increase in reported sexual assault cases)

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00013-eng.htm>



# CRM 101

# Understanding Crime in Canada

WEEK 4 - BIOSOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL

APPROACHES TO CRIME (NOT CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE – NCR DEBATE)



# NCR Requirements

To be designated Not Criminally Responsible (NCR), you must answer the following:

- ▶ Does the individual have the mental capacity to comprehend their act (in the cases raised in the video, the violent murders), when it was committed
- ▶ Does the individual understand it was wrong?

Those who are designated as NCR must prove “NO” to each question.



# NCR Reform Act

- ▶ High Risk Designation – Mandatory detainment for longer periods of time in a psychiatrist hospital, no escorted visits.
  - ▶ This designation is by a judge and not a doctor
  - ▶ 3 years in between reviews which will prolong detainment.
- ▶ Victim is informed of release, where the individual resides.
  - ▶ Does this decrease privacy rights, and increase stigma?
- ▶ With this reform there are still no conditions after release. Critics argue, you need to have longer periods of time to monitor offender, not further stigmatize.



# Criticisms

Main criticisms are from the medical community

- ▶ Reform is unjustified
- ▶ Increases stigma, individuals will now be identified by both the medical system, and criminal system as high risk. What will this do for their own well-being and future rehabilitation.
- ▶ Will be costly to the health care system.
- ▶ Data demonstrates that NCR is used in less than 1 % of criminal cases, New reform may truly only apply to around 7 criminal cases per year.
- ▶ Is this for public good or for political reasons to appear “tough on crime”, when reforms are unnecessary.



# Tensions between Classical and Positivist tradition

- ▶ Classical school of thought, argues that we have free will, and therefore are all potential criminals, and the threat of punishment will deter us from engaging in crime.

VS.

- ▶ Positivist tradition which states that free-will is limited, whether that be due to social factors, such as socio-economic status, where you live, etc., biological factors, or psychological factors, such as mental health. Therefore, the focus should be on treatment, not punishment.



# This week's discussion

Bio-social and Psychological theories of crime

