

7

Deviance, Crime,
and Social
Control

Key Topics

- 7-1 What Is Deviance?
- 7-2 What is Crime?
- 7-3 Controlling Deviance and Crime
- 7-4 Functionalist Perspectives on Deviance and Crime
- 7-5 Conflict Perspectives on Deviance and Crime
- 7-6 Feminist Perspectives on Deviance and Crime
- 7-7 Symbolic Interaction Perspectives on Deviance and Crime
- 7-8 The Criminal Justice System and Social Control

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 Differentiate between deviance and crime, and describe the key characteristics of deviance
- 2 After evaluating the two major crime measures, identify and illustrate the different types of crime
- 3 Describe, illustrate, and evaluate functionalist perspectives on deviance

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SOCs | CH7 | 3

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 4 Describe, illustrate, and evaluate conflict perspectives on deviance
- 5 Describe, illustrate, and evaluate feminist perspectives on deviance
- 6 Describe, illustrate, and evaluate symbolic interaction perspectives on deviance
- 7 Identify and evaluate the criminal justice system's social control methods

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Deviance and Crime

LO-1

- **Deviance:** Violation of social norms
 - Characteristics
 - Can be a trait, a belief, or a behavior
 - Accompanied by social **stigmas**
 - Varies across and within societies
 - Varies across situations
 - Formal or informal
 - Perceptions of deviance change over time
- **Crime:** Violation of society's formal laws

What Is Deviance?



Deviance

- Deviance:**

“Deviance is a violation of established contextual, cultural, or social norms, whether folkways, mores, or codified law (1906). (William Graham Sumner)
- Usually has a negative connotation in everyday society

Determinants of Deviance


Groups with authority or power

Public attitudes and behavior

Laws

Explaining Bystander Apathy

- Bystander Apathy**
 - Interaction in Public Places
 - www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSsPfbupoac




11 October 2012 Last updated at 06:43 ET

Malala Yousafzai: Shot Pakistan girl to move hospitals



A 14-year-old Pakistani girl shot in the head by Taliban gunmen is to be transferred to a new military hospital with better facilities, officials say.

Activist Malala Yousafzai, in critical condition two days after being attacked in the north-western Swat Valley, will be moved from Peshawar to Rawalpindi. The Taliban, who accuse her of "promoting secularism", have said they will target her again.



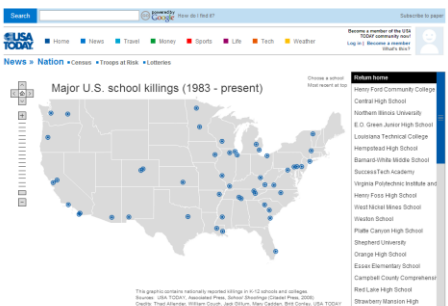
Washington school shooting claims another victim

By Kevin Conboy in Cape Canaveral, CNN
Updated at 4:48 EDT, first published 10/27/2014

TRAGEDY IN MARYSVILLE

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- The gunman shot the people in a Washington high school cafeteria has died, bringing the death toll to two.
- One of four students injured when a freshman opened fire in a Washington high school cafeteria has died, bringing the death toll to two.



Mapping school violence

This graphic contains reported school killings in elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools.

<http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/graphic-school-killings.htm>



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ca9rd4aA_t0

Deviance

- Can be a trait, belief, or behavior
- Accompanied by **social stigma**:
 - A negative label that devalues a person and changes her or his self-concept and social identity
- Can be formal or informal
 - Against the law or merely inappropriate.
 - Folkways
 - Mores
 - Laws

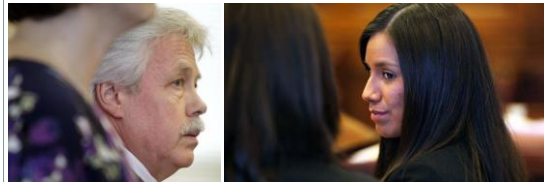
Deviance

- Varies across and within societies
- Varies across situations
- Perceptions change over time

What was deviant in the past is no longer, while other actions are now considered deviant.

Crime

Crime is a violation of societal norms and rules written into public laws that is subject to punishment.



Mark Strong

Alexis Wright

Crime

- **Criminologists**: researchers who use scientific methods to study the nature, extent, cause, and control of criminal behavior

Measuring Crime

LO-2

- Sources of crime statistics
 - FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR)
 - ✦ Consists of crimes reported to the police and arrests made each year
 - The Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
 - ✦ **Victimization survey**: Interviews being crime victims
 - ✦ Includes both reported and unreported



LO-2

Types of Deviance: Noncriminal

Suicide

Alcoholism

Lying

Mental illness

Adult pornography

LO-2

Types of Deviance: Criminal

Street crimes

- Includes violent and property crimes

Hate crimes

- Caused by the bias against race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, or disability

White-collar crimes

- Committed by high-status people as part of their occupations

Corporate (organizational) crimes

- Committed by executives to benefit themselves and their companies

LO-2

Types of Deviance: Criminal (continued)

Cybercrimes (computer crimes)

- Illegal activities that are conducted online

Organized crimes

- Acts of people and groups that supply illegal goods and services for profit

Victimless (public order) crimes

- Acts that violate laws but those involved do not consider themselves as victims



Crime

- All crime statistics are estimates.
- 88% of crimes are property crimes.
- Most *victims* are men, African American, people under age 25, and poor.
- *Offenders* are likely to be aged 15-29, male, white, with low levels of education.
- **Victimless crimes:**
 - illicit drug use, prostitution, drunkenness, illegal gambling
 - Victimless crimes are the least likely to be reported.

Crime

TABLE 7.1
Serious Crime in the United States, by Volume and Rate, 2010

CRIMES	VOLUME (NUMBER OF CRIMES)	RATE (PER 100,000 INHABITANTS)
Violent Crime	1.3 million	404
Murder	14,748	5
Forcible rape	84,767	28
Robbery	367,832	119
Aggravated assault	778,901	252
Property Crime	10.3 million	3,514
Burglary	2.1 million	730
Larceny-theft	6.9 million	2,362
Motor vehicle theft	1.2 million	422

UCR - INTRODUCTION

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

- [Violent Crime](#) Comparative Data
- [Property Crimes](#) Comparative Data
- [Index Crimes](#)
 - [Murder \(Murder Summary\)](#)
 - Rape
 - Robbery
 - Aggravated Assault
 - Domestic Violence
- [Property Crime](#)
 - Burglary
 - Larceny
 - Motor Vehicle Theft
 - Arson
- [Hate Crime](#)
- [Stolen and Recovered Property Values](#)
- [Clearance Rate](#)

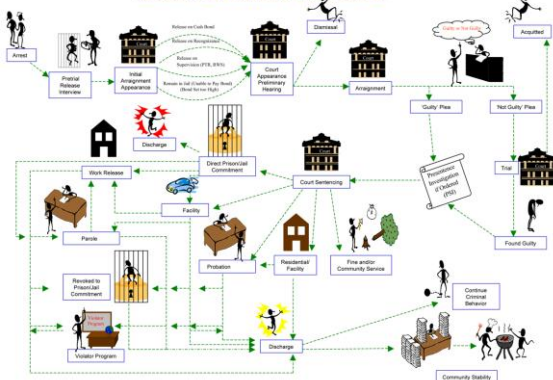
www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime_in_maine/cim.htm

Hancock County 2015 Uniform Crime Report

COUNTY CRIME ANALYSIS

Hancock County		January–December 2015										
Contributing Agency	Estimated Population	Crime Rate	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	M/V Theft	Avion	Total Index Crimes	Clearance Rate
Hancock SO	—	—	—	—	—	1	35	97	9	—	142	34.5
Bar Harbor	5,328	16.33	—	4	—	1	6	73	3	—	87	17.2
Ellsworth	7,870	39.52	—	3	2	3	48	250	5	—	311	61.1
Backport	4,944	15.17	—	1	—	8	16	49	1	—	75	28.0
Mount Desert Island	2,073	18.81	—	—	—	—	2	36	1	—	39	28.2
Southwest Harbor	1,773	22.56	—	—	—	—	3	35	2	—	40	30.0
Gouldsboro	1,741	16.08	—	—	—	—	7	19	2	—	28	28.6
Swan's Island	331	6.04	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	50.0
Winter Harbor	516	15.50	—	—	—	1	—	6	1	—	8	12.5
Hancock SP	—	—	—	1	—	8	58	73	8	—	148	30.4
Hancock County Totals	54,720	16.08	—	9	2	22	175	640	32	—	880	40.1
Total Urban Areas	24,576	24.01	—	8	2	13	82	470	15	—	590	43.9
Total Rural Areas	30,144	9.62	—	1	—	9	93	170	17	—	290	32.4

CRIMINAL JUSTICE FLOW CHART



Clearance Rate

Offense is cleared when a law enforcement agency has:

- identified the offender,
 - there is enough evidence to charge him, and
 - he is actually taken into custody.
- The arrest of one person can clear several crimes, or several persons may be arrested in the process of clearing one crime.

<http://www.maine.gov/dps/>

Clearance Rate

Clearance Rate of Index Offenses, January–December 2011

Classification	Number of Offenses	Number Cleared	Percent Cleared
Murder	25	23	92.0%
Forecible Rape	391	181	46.3%
Robbery	370	186	50.3%
Aggravated Assault	843	644	76.4%
Burglary	7,826	1,607	20.5%
Larceny-Theft	24,827	7,657	30.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,074	401	37.3%
Arson	260	87	33.5%
Totals	35,616	10,786	30.3%

(Note: Offenses cleared do not necessarily relate to the actual offenses during the January–December period. Offenses can be cleared from prior periods.)

Controlling Deviance and Crime

- **Social control:** techniques and strategies that regulate behavior
 - Can be formal or informal
 - Includes positive (rewards) and negative (punishments) sanctions.

Is the sanction formal or informal, negative or positive?

- A suspension from school
- Serving time in jail
- A smile
- Employee of the month designation
- A slap in the face

Functionalism Perspective on Deviance

LO-3

- Normal part of society
- Dysfunctional deviance
 - Creates tension and insecurity, and is expensive
 - Erodes trust in personal and formal relationships
 - Decreases confidence in institutions
- Functional deviance
 - Affirms cultural norms and values
 - Provides temporary safety valves and creates social unity
 - Bolsters the economy and triggers social change

Functionalism

Anomie: the condition in which people are unsure of how to behave because of absent, conflicting, or confusing social norms

Discussion: In what ways is the American society anomic about drugs and alcohol?

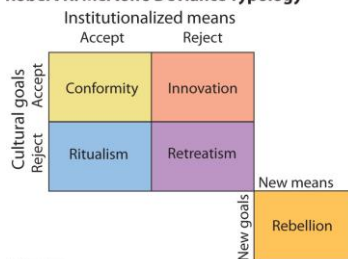
Functionalism

Merton's Social Strain Theory

- American society has culturally approved goals and institutionalized means
- **Strain theory** suggests that people engage in deviance when there is a strain or conflict between goals and means.

Merton's Strain Theory

Robert K. Merton's Deviance Typology



Functionalism—Application

What form of adaptation is it?

- A young woman continues working at a job she hates, doing as little as possible.
- An adult walks off his job and leaves town without his family.
- A man uses his employer's equipment and supplies when starting his own business.

Functionalism Perspective on Deviance

(continued 2)

LO-3

- **Critical evaluation**
 - Anomie and strain theory are limited
 - Fails to explain why:
 - Women's crime rates are lower than men's
 - Crime rates have declined despite poverty and unemployment
 - People commit crimes that have no connection with being successful
 - Focuses on lower-class deviance and crime

Conflict Perspectives on Deviance and Crime



Conflict Perspectives

- **Conflict theorists** focus on why some acts are defined as deviant while others are not.
 - Powerful groups control the law and its application.
 - Behaviors that injure the economic interests or challenge the political power of the dominant class are punished.

Conflict Perspectives

- **White collar crime:** illegal activities committed by high-status people in the course of their occupation
- **Corporate crime:** illegal acts committed by executives to benefit themselves and their companies
- **Cybercrime:** illegal activities conducted online
- **Organized crime:** activities of individuals and groups that supply illegal goods and services for profit

Conflict Perspectives—Application

What kind of crime is it?

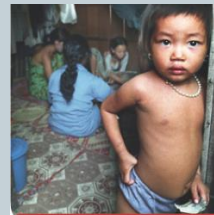
- Amanda overcharges clients and keeps the extra money.
- Ken obtains and uses others' credit card numbers.
- A manufacturing firm knowingly installs dangerous equipment in order to save money.

Conflict Perspective on Deviance (continued)

LO-4

- **Critical evaluation**
 - Exaggerates the importance of capitalism in explaining white collar and corporate crime
 - Deemphasizes crimes committed by low-income groups
 - Ignores the fact that some affluent people don't get away with their crimes
 - Ignores the ways that crime is functional for the society
 - Focuses on men as victims and offenders

Feminist Perspectives on Deviance and Crime



Holding money exchanged for sex, the child of a prostituted woman stands in the doorway of a brothel in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Children, especially girls, who are raised in brothels, are highly vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Many of the customers are Western men.

Feminist Perspectives

Patriarchy: hierarchical system in a society in which cultural, political, and economic structures are controlled by men.

Feminist Perspectives

- **Patriarchy**
 - Men historically dominated the government, judiciary, and the law.
 - Women have been socialized to be weaker.
- **Victimization**
 - Women and girls are commonly the victims of sexual assault, rape, intimate partner violence, and other crimes that degrade women.
 - Men are still more likely to be offenders
- **Female arrest rates have risen for robbery, burglary, larceny, and drunk driving.**
 - Explanations vary from mistreatment in childhood to limited economic opportunities.

Sexual Abuse



<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/from-aggressive-overtures-to-sexual-assault-harvey-weinsteins-accusers-tell-their-stories>



<https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2017/10/donald-trump-access-hollywood-harvey-weinstein>

Symbolic Interaction Perspectives on Deviance and Crime



Symbolic Interactionism

- **Differential associations theory** suggests that people learn deviance through interaction.
- People are most likely to engage in crime if they are exposed to deviant values early in life, frequently, over a long period of time, and from important people.

Symbolic Interactionism

- **Labeling theory** holds that deviance depends on how others react.
 - **Primary deviance** is the initial violation of a norm or law.
 - **Secondary deviance** occurs when individuals have been labeled deviant.
- Victim Characterization
 - Shankar Vedantam – Reading Maxim Can Make You A Theft Target
 - <http://www.npr.org/people/137765146/shankar-vedantam>
 - <http://www.npr.org/2012/11/14/164974490/reading-maxim-can-make-you-a-target-for-thieves>

Criminal Justice System

- The **criminal justice system** refers to government agencies that are charged with enforcing laws, passing judgment, and correcting behavior.
- Includes police, courts, and prisons
 - Relies on **prevention and intervention, punishment, and rehabilitation**

Criminal Justice System

Prevention

- Social service agencies and community outreach programs try to prevent crime.
- Treatment for drug and alcohol abuse seems to have a positive effect.
- Surveillance by police or technology reduces crime rates.

Criminal Justice System

Punishment

- The **crime control model** emphasizes protecting society and a get tough attitude.
- The U.S. leads the world in inmates per capita.
- In 2008, one in every 100 Americans was in prison.
- Approximately 61% of Americans support the death penalty.
- There is little evidence that executions or harsh penalties deter crime.

Criminal Justice System

Rehabilitation

- Appropriate treatment can change offenders into productive, law-abiding citizens.
- Rehabilitation programs are particularly successful when they provide employment after release.

Chapter Review

1. What is deviance?
2. What is crime?
3. Describe the functionalist perspective on deviance and crime.
4. Describe the conflict perspective on deviance and crime.
5. Describe the feminist perspective on deviance and crime.
6. Describe the symbolic interaction perspective on deviance and crime.
7. How do we attempt to control crime?

EXTRA MATERIAL

Travis Hirschi: Control Theory

Social control is directly affected by the strength of social bonds and that deviance results from a feeling of disconnection from society

Travis Hirschi (1969) identified four types of social bonds that connect people to society:

1. **Attachment** *measures our connections to others. When we are closely attached to people, we worry about their opinions of us. People conform to society's norms in order to gain approval (and prevent disapproval) from family, friends, and romantic partners.*
2. **Commitment** *refers to the investments we make in the community. A well-respected local/businesswoman who volunteers at her synagogue and is a member of the neighborhood block organization has more to lose from committing a crime than a woman who doesn't have a career or ties to the community.*
3. **Involvement** *or participation in socially legitimate activities, lessen a person's likelihood of deviance. Children who are members of little league baseball teams have fewer family crises.*
4. **Belief** *is an agreement on common values in society. If a person views social values as beliefs, he or she will conform to them. An environmentalist is more likely to pick up trash in a park because a clean environment is a social value to him (Hirschi 1969).*