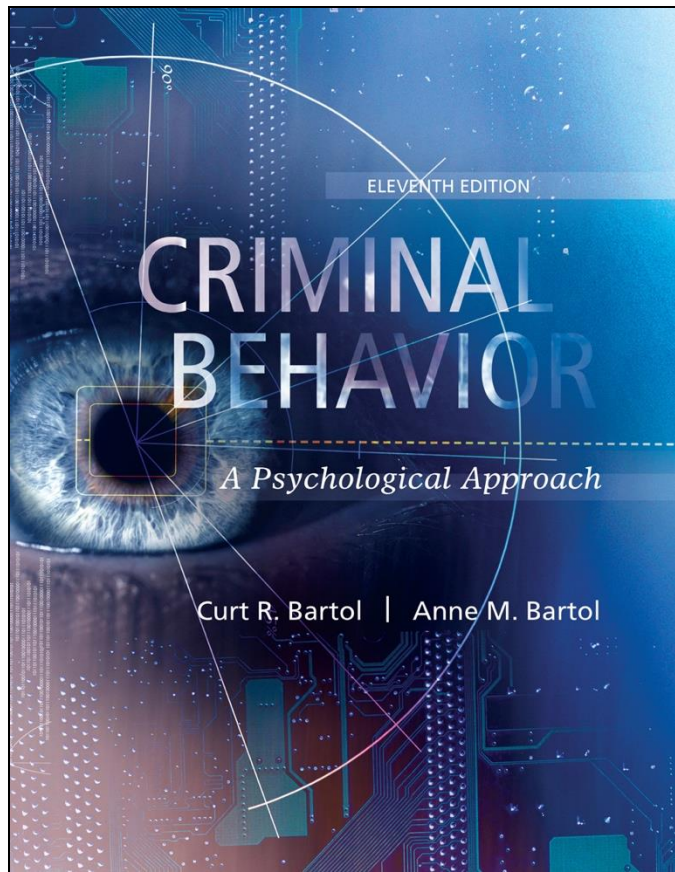


Criminal Behavior

A Psychological Approach

Eleventh Edition



CHAPTER 1

Introduction to Criminal Behavior

Chapter Objectives

- Emphasize that criminal behavior has multiple causes, manifestations, and developmental pathways.
- Identify the different perspectives of human nature that underlie the theoretical development and research of criminal behavior.
- Introduce various theories that may help explain crime.

Chapter Objectives

- Describe the three major disciplines in criminology: sociological, psychological, and psychiatric.
- Point out that the study of criminal behavior and delinquency, from a psychological perspective, has shifted from a personality toward a more cognitive and developmental focus.

Chapter Objectives

- Define criminal behavior and juvenile delinquency.
- Introduce the reader to the various measurements of criminal and delinquent behavior.

Definitions

- Crime
 - Conduct or failure to act in violation of the law forbidding or commanding it, and for which a range of possible penalties exist upon conviction. This is an often overlooked part of the study of criminology: No law, No crime!
- Criminal behavior
 - Behavior in violation of the criminal code

A Scientific Theory of Crime

- Should provide a general explanation that encompasses and systematically connects many different social, economic, and psychological variables to criminal behavior, and it should be supported by well-executed research
 - Precise terms
- The purpose is to identify the causes or precursors of criminal behavior.

A Scientific Theory of Crime

- There is no all encompassing psychological, sociological or criminological explanation for crime.
- This is true for most things in social sciences, there frequently is not a single “truth”.

Theories of Crime

- Just-world hypothesis
 - Everything one gets is deserved
 - This includes criminals AND victims
 - Should penalties for crimes be mitigated if the victim is somehow negligent in guarding his/her property?
 - Did the battered spouse somehow provoke the beating? Shared culpability?
 - Would a just world perspective help a criminal endure imprisonment?

Theories of Crime

- Classical theory
 - Criminals operate under “free will”
 - Choice to commit a crime is made only after weighing the pleasure to be received from the crime against the pain from getting caught and punished.
 - True classical criminology does not consider mitigating factors such as being a juvenile.
 - This led to Neo-Classical theories
 - Requires punishment to be swift and certain.
 - Modern US criminal justice system is neither

Theories of Crime

- Deterrence theory
 - Based on classical criminology and the concept of free will and that punishment that exceeds the pleasure from crime will deter
 - Specific Deterrence
 - General Deterrence

Theories of Crime

- Positivist theory
 - Does not accept free will. Emphasizes determinism
 - Prior experiences and influence determine present behavior
 - To stop crime, you must stop the antecedents and provide support services for youths to influence future adult criminality
 - Under this model, if the antecedent is biological in nature, what would be the intervention?

Theoretical Perspectives on Human Nature

- Conformity perspective
 - Strain theory (Robert Merton)
 - People strive to attain what society deems as valuable, power, house, good job etc.
 - Not everyone has equal ability to achieve them, poverty, poor education etc.
 - Strain occurs and leads to alternate means of getting the things of value, Crime
 - How does this explain crimes of the rich and powerful?

Theoretical Perspectives on Human Nature

- General strain theory (Robert Agnew)
- 3 Factors leading to criminal behavior
 - failure to achieve a goal,
 - the existence of harmful impulses,
 - and the removal of positive impulses.
- Goals can be individual
 - Rich fearing loss of power and status
 - No amount of anything desired is enough
 - More power, more money etc

Theoretical Perspectives on Human Nature

- Nonconformist perspective
 - Biological theories
 - Humans are fundamentally unruly and deviant.
 - We all have the capability to commit crime
 - Social control theory (Travis Hirschi)
 - If an individual's ties to societal norms are weak, deviance and possibly crime, will occur
 - General theory of crime
 - Gottfredson and Hirschi
 - Lack of self control causes criminal behavior

Theoretical Perspectives on Human Nature

- Learning theory
 - Differential association theory
 - Associate with deviates, learn how to become one through that association
 - Model behaviors of other criminals

Disciplinary Perspectives in Criminology

- The study of criminology involves many disciplines such as sociology, psychology, economics, political science, neuro-sciences, plus others.
- Sociological criminology
 - Examines the relationships of demographic and **group** variables to crime (social psychological theories look at **individuals**)
 - Underlying social conditions
 - Because underlying social conditions vary considerably between geographical areas, crime also varies considerably. Crime is **NOT** evenly distributed. (look at murder rates by Ward, Wash. D.C. and Lawrence Sherman Study of Hot Spots of Predatory Crime in Minneapolis)

Disciplinary Perspectives in Criminology

- Psychological criminology
 - The science of the behavior and mental processes of the person who commits crime
 - Can have issues of extrapolating the behavior of a single person to the behavior of others
 - Approaches
 - Cognitive
 - Prejudices and hate crimes usually stem from cognitive distortions
 - Faulty generalizations through heuristics

Disciplinary Perspectives in Criminology

- Neurological or biological
 - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) can change behavior (Phineas Gage, next slide)
 - Exposure to toxins in early development to include in utero development
 - Lead for poorer children
 - Air pollution in poorer neighborhoods

Disciplinary Perspectives in Criminology (5:28)



Disciplinary Perspectives in Criminology

- Developmental
 - Crime is not stable across lifetimes
 - Highest crime rates are usually in the age range of 15 to 28
 - Drops off considerably after 40
 - Changes in stability factors
 - Career vs just a job
 - Family
- Trait
 - No single trait explains all criminality
 - This approach does not consider the environment to be very important

Disciplinary Perspectives in Criminology

- Psychiatric criminology
 - Differs from psychological criminology
 - Psychiatrists are MDs and can prescribe psychoactive medications
 - Louisiana, New Mexico, Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho are the only states that allow psychologists to prescribe medication, and in the US military
 - Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners can also prescribe medications

Three Ways of Measuring Crime

1. Official police reports
 - Uniform Crime Reports
 - National Incident-Based Reporting System
2. Self-report studies
 - Perpetrators may be reluctant to admit criminal activity, or may “boast” about fictitious acts (lie)
3. Victimization studies
 - Always shows a higher rate of crime than police reports
 - Why do you think people do not report crimes to the police, even serious ones such as rape and armed robbery?

Uniform Crime Reports

- Most cited source of U.S. crime statistics
- Crimes known to police and arrests
- Permits a comparison of national data broken down by age, sex, race, and offense.
- Part I and Part II crimes

Uniform Crime Reports

- Violent crimes
 - Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter
 - Rape
 - Now a broader definition
 - In many states, under the old definition, a male could not be a rape victim
 - Robbery
 - Car jackings are robberies but may be statistically tracked differently
 - Aggravated assault (felony)

Uniform Crime Reports

- Property crime
 - The taking or destruction of money or property
 - Burglary
 - Larceny-theft
 - Motor vehicle theft
 - Arson

Uniform Crime Reports

- Crime rate
 - Percentage of crime known to police per 100,000 population
 - Clearance rates
 - Arrest data must be distinguished from reported crime and clearance data.

Uniform Crime Reports

- Problems
 - Hierarchy rule
 - When a number of offenses have been committed during a series, only the most serious offense is included.
 - Dark figure
 - Criminal offenses unknown or undetected
 - By some estimates,

Dark Figure of Crime (Sexual Violence Crimes)

**OUT OF EVERY 1,000 SEXUAL ASSAULTS,
975 PERPETRATORS WILL WALK FREE**

310 are reported to policeⁱ



50 reports lead to arrestⁱⁱ



28 cases will lead to a felony convictionⁱⁱⁱ



25 perpetrators will be incarceratedⁱⁱⁱ



RAINN

National Sexual Assault Hotline | 800.656.HOPE | online.rainn.org

Please visit rainn.org/statistics/scope-problem for full citation.¹

Dark Figure of Crime (Sexual Violence Crimes)

The Majority of Sexual Assaults Are Not Reported to the Police (RAINN)

- Only 310 out of every 1,000 sexual assaults are reported to police. That means more than 2 out of 3 go unreported.
- **Individuals of college-age**
 - Female Students: 20% report
 - Female Non-Students: 32% report
- **The elderly:** 28% report³
- **Members of the military:** 43% of female victims and 10% of male victims reported.

Dark Figure of Crime (Sexual Violence Crimes)

Reasons for Reporting Sexual Assaults (RAINN)

- 28% to protect the household or victim from further crimes by the offender
- 25% to stop the incident or prevent recurrence or escalation
- 21% to improve police surveillance or they believed they had a duty to do so
- 17% to catch/punish/prevent offender from reoffending
- 6% gave a different answer, or declined to cite one reason
- 3% did so to get help or recover loss

Dark Figure of Crime (Sexual Violence Crimes)

Reasons for NOT Reporting Sexual Assaults (RAINN)

- 20% feared retaliation
- 13% believed the police would not do anything to help
- 13% believed it was a personal matter
- 8% reported to a different official
- 8% believed it was not important enough to report
- 7% did not want to get the perpetrator in trouble
- 2% believed the police could not do anything to help
- 30% gave another reason, or did not cite one reason

Uniform Crime Reports

- Problems
 - Discretionary decision-making by law enforcement
 - If police do not make a report, it does not get tracked
 - Cybercrime not included
 - Fastest growing property crime worldwide

National Incident-Based Reporting System (FBI, 7:13)



National Incident-Based Reporting System

- Initiated as supplement to the UCR
- Group A
 - 46 serious offense categories
 - Crime and its aspects
- Group B
 - 11 less serious offenses
 - Only information about arrestee and circumstances of arrest

National Incident-Based Reporting System

- Advantages
 - Closely examines bias crimes, the presence of gang activity in communities, crimes against law enforcement officers, and data on cargo theft
 - Detailed data about Group A crimes

Self-Report Studies

- A more accurate estimate of actual offenses
- Conducted primarily with incarcerated adults
- Interviews or questionnaires
- Longitudinal studies
 - ADD-Health study
 - Project on Human Development

Self-Report Studies

- Drug Use Self-Report Surveys
 - National Survey on Drug Use and Health
 - Monitoring the Future
 - Arrestees Drug Abuse Monitoring Program

Victimization Surveys (US DOJ, 2:48)



Victimization Surveys

- National Crime Victimization Survey
 - Victims describe the impact of crime and characteristics of violent offenders.
 - Sample is interviewed every six months.
 - Designed to measure the extent to which households and individuals are victims of rape and other sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft.

Victimization Surveys

- National Crime Victimization Survey
 - Results show victimization incidents have decreased in recent years.
 - Demographic differences in victimization rates
 - Relationship patterns
 - Intimate Partner Violence

Juvenile Delinquency

- Juvenile & Juvenile Delinquency Defined (Federal Code 18 U.S.C. § 5031):
 - A "juvenile" is a person who has not attained his eighteenth birthday, and "juvenile delinquency" is the violation of a law of the United States committed by a person prior to his eighteenth birthday which would have been a crime if committed by an adult. A person over eighteen but under twenty-one years of age is also accorded juvenile treatment if the act of juvenile delinquency occurred prior to his eighteenth birthday.

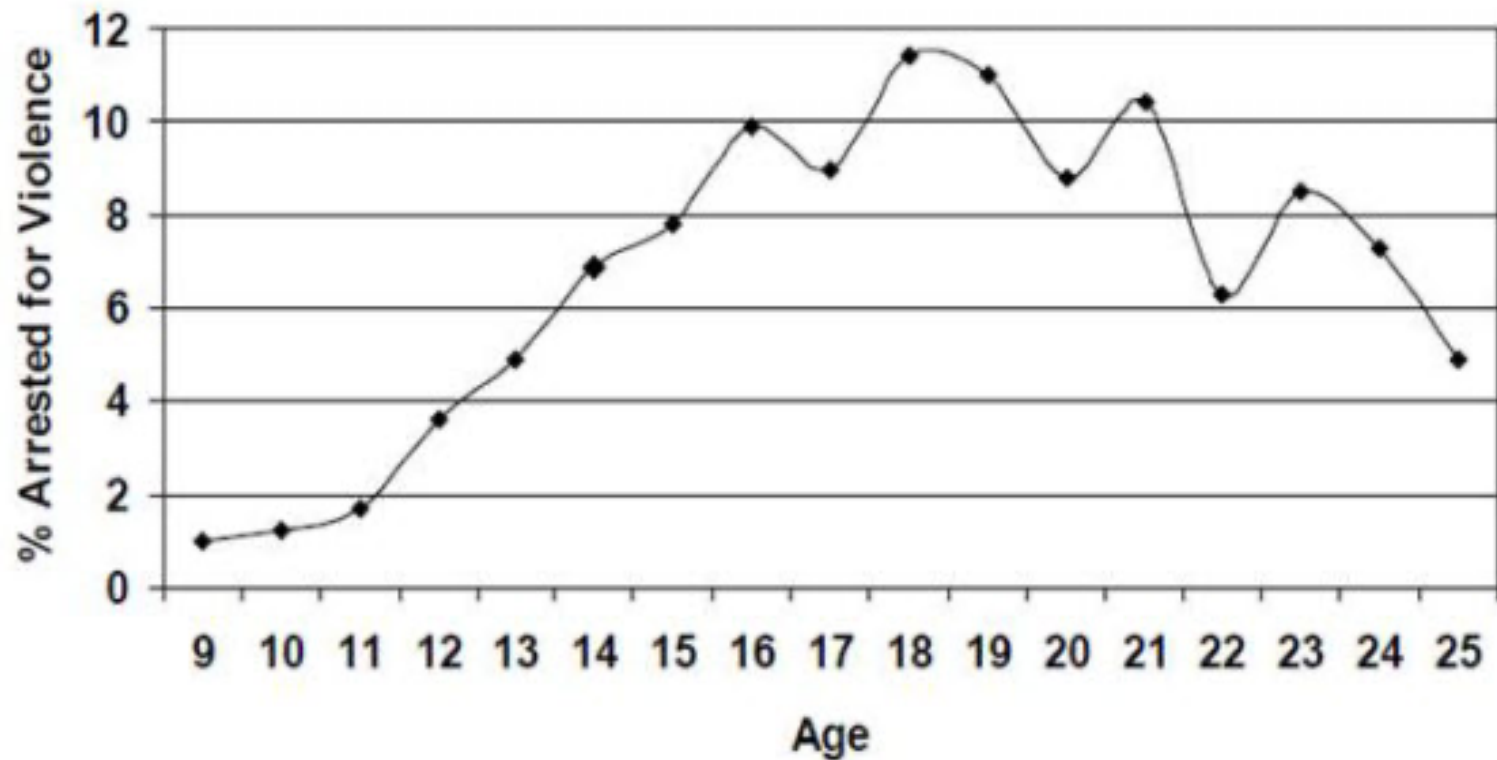
Juvenile Delinquency

- Status offenses
 - NOT a criminal act
 - Something that is legal for adults but that is prohibited for juveniles
 - Truancy
 - Running away
- Most stop committing crime when they reach 20's

Juvenile Delinquency

- **Juvenile Crime Trends** (OJJDP, 2022)
- Each year since 2000, youth accounted for 10% or less of all murder arrests.
- Youth account for a larger proportion of arrests for robbery than other violent crimes, but their share in 2020 was at its lowest level since at least 1980.
- The proportion of aggravated assault arrests involving youth has declined since 2008.

Juvenile Delinquency (US DOJ, NIJ 2014)



Defining Crime and Delinquency

- Legal definitions may be limiting.
- States have different criminal codes.
- Selective enforcement of the law
- Individuals sentenced to jail or prison are not representative of the "true" criminal population.
- Antisocial behavior

Key Concepts

- Antisocial behavior
- Classical theory
- Clearance rate
- Cognitions
- Conformity perspective

Key Concepts

- Crime rate
- Criminology
- Dark figure
- Deterrence theory

Key Concepts

- Developmental approach
- Differential association theory
- Falsification
- General Theory of Crime
- Hate Crime Statistics Act

Key Concepts

- Hierarchy rule
- Intimate partner violence (IPV)
- Just-world hypothesis
- Learning perspective

Additional Resources

Videos:

Grunge (2018) Why Scientists are Still Fascinated With Phineas Gage.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vb8Jg1PAL90>

Office of Justice Programs (US DOJ) (2016) An Overview of Criminal Victimization, 2016.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5d6sl3Ha_4o&t=62s

NIBRS 101 (2018). FBI. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcR-RwHcsdE>

Online Resources:

RAINN (2023) The Criminal Justice System: Statistics.

<https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system>

Puzzanchera, C (2022) Trends in Youth Arrests for Violent Crimes. Juvenile Justice Statistics, U.S. Dept of Justice, OJJDP. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/publications/trends-in-youth-arrests.pdf>

18 U.S.C. § 5031 “Juvenile” Defined <https://www.justice.gov/archives/jm/criminal-resource-manual-38-juvenile-defined>

US DOJ, National Institute Of Justice. (2014). From Youth Justice Involvement to Young Adult Offending <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/youth-justice-involvement-young-adult-offending#age>