Today’s lecture: deviance and crime

1. what is deviance? what is crime?
2. the social functions and personal feelings of deviance
3. major families of theories of crime
   • with longer asides when we get to control theory and labeling theory
4. how crime rates vary by gender, race, and social class

deviance ≠ crime

• deviance: action that
• crime: undesired behaviors that the
• many kinds of deviance are not crimes;
• societies vary in what they as define either deviant or criminal;

Durkheim, Rules of Sociological Method

• the punishment of deviance serves to
• one would have actions regarded as “scandalous”
some orienting facts about crime in the United States

- The recidivism rate for criminals in the United States is about
  - recidivism: the perpetration of another crime by someone who has already been caught and punished for an offense
- offender v offenders typically (they are not)
- a considerable amount crime in the United States seems very much a

Different families of theories of crime and where they focus attention on in understanding why criminal behavior occurs
• rational-choice analyses of crime focus attention on the
• opportunity theories focus attention on the
  for members of a society
• crime control policies
  attempt to control crime by manipulating

• deterrence theories
  • deterrence theories focus attention on
    for criminal acts
  • deterrence theories emphasized the
    importance of the perceived

• control theories
  • control theories focus attention on a
    of the criminal
  • "p lack of 
    " control theories focus on a
  • "s lack of 
    " control theories focus on a
  • stake in conformity:
Sampson and Laub, *Crime in the Making*

Considers a seeming paradox: antisocial behavior in children is one of the best, but most antisocial children do not

(age and crime graph)

Sampson and Laub, *Crime in the Making*

Important transitions for stopping antisocial behavior in study:

1. Finding a

2. Finding a

3. Also: having a reasonable relationship with
in vs. social controls

- in social control: negative reactions (and punishments) of
- f social control: negative reactions (and punishments) by
  responsibility for dealing with rule violations

more families of theories of crime

- d theories focus attention on the
- s theories focus attention on the tension between the and the perceived
- l theories focus attention on the consequences of being

How might labeling increase the probability of subsequent criminal behavior?

s deviance: deviant behavior that occurs as an

1. labels can affect how individuals

2. labels may cause one to increasingly (formation of a )

3. labels can be as part of how people (how your book uses “s deviance”)
gender and crime

race and crime

some reasons for higher Black arrest rates

1. concentrated
2. higher rates of
3. higher rates of
4. discriminatory behavior in
race and crime

• Blacks are considerably more likely than Whites to be

• According to some statistics, killers of Whites are

(some graphs on race and incarceration in Dane County)

socioeconomic status and crime

• regardless of race, members of are more likely to be

• but, especially among

• sociologists regularly complain that too little attention is paid to