Criminology 12 Mr. Wallace

**What Factors Lead to Crime**

**Profiling**

* Certain people, in certain circumstances are more likely than others to get involved in criminal conduct.
* Law enforcements make generalizations about people.
  + Must of course, also have evidence.
  + Not to be confused with *racial profiling* which is illegal.
* Certain characteristics, do indicate that someone may be more likely to get involved with criminal activity

**Age**

* 16% of violent crime, and 26% of property crime committed by people under the age of 18.
* 18-19: The age one is most likely to be arrested.

**Why are young people more likely to commit crime?**

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**Gender**

* 75% of all arrests involve men.
* 83% of violent crime and 67% of property crime.
  + Female rates to appear to be on the rise.

**Why Men?**

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**Income**

* People from lower income areas commit more crime. Why?
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**Race**

* In the United States, African-American and Hispanic citizens continue to be arrested for a disproportionate number of crimes.
  + Institutionalized racism?
  + A simple reflection of their offense rate?

**Cultural Challenges Facing Minority Groups**

* Larger number of single parents
* Lack of a second parent can have a large impact:
  + Income, educational opportunities, discipline.
  + Single parent families more likely to live in impoverished areas where crime rates are high.

**Education**

* The more education one has, the less likely thy are to commit a crime.
* It is not education itself, but what education affords people
  + Better jobs
  + Better neighborhoods with better schools
  + Less exposure to delinquents
* Bonds or social connection that students make at school correlate with lower crime rates.

**Religious Affiliation**

* The *hellfire hypothesis*?
* Studies show a correlation between attendance at religious services, and a reduced likelihood of committing crime.
  + May take teachings more seriously, and religions doesn’t typically teach crime.

**The Impact of Societal Conditions on Crime**

* Pop Culture
  + Average child will see 18,000 murders, and 250,000 violent acts on TV and in movies before they graduate.
  + Some suggested we are becoming desensitized to violence.
  + Some may see violence as an appropriate way to resolve conflict.
* Bad Economy
  + When times are tough, do crime rates go up?
  + Two opposing views:
    - Unemployed people, especially men, who have more free time, get into trouble.
    - During severe economic downturns, families are brought closer together, resulting in a decrease in crime.

**Time of Year**

* More crime occurs during the summer. Why?
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* Extremely hot weather though may actually cause a decrease.
* Robberies are more likely to occur in the winter.