

Chapter 2—Measuring and Explaining Crime

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Since its inception in 1930, the _____ has attempted to measure the overall rate of crime in the United States by organizing "crimes known to the police."
- National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
 - National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)
 - Self-report surveys
 - Uniform Crime Report (UCR)

ANS: D REF: p. 33 OBJ: LO 1

2. The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) reports on three measurements. Which of the following is **NOT** one of them?
- The number of persons arrested
 - The number of crimes reported by victims, witnesses, or the police themselves
 - The number of officers and support law enforcement specialists
 - The number of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents that compile the UCR

ANS: D REF: p. 33 OBJ: LO 1

3. The UCR is prepared annually by:
- The United States Census Bureau
 - The Department of Homeland Security
 - The Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - The United States Secret Service

ANS: C REF: p. 33 OBJ: LO 1

4. When the UCR presents crime data as a *rate*, they are reporting:
- The amount of crime per 100,000 people
 - The amount of change that has occurred since the previous year
 - The total number of crimes
 - The frequency with which a particular crime is committed within a 24 hour period

ANS: A REF: p. 33 OBJ: LO 1

5. The UCR is comprised of agency data which represents _____ of the American population.
- 95%
 - 88%
 - 76%
 - 65%

ANS: A REF: p. 33 OBJ: LO 1

6. Which of the following is a Part II offense?
- a. Driving under the influence
 - b. Burglary
 - c. Arson
 - d. Motor vehicle theft

ANS: A REF: p. 34 OBJ: LO 2

7. Crimes that, due to their seriousness and frequency are recorded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to give a general idea of the "crime picture" in the United States in any given year, are known as:
- a. Part I offenses
 - b. Part II offenses
 - c. Part III offenses
 - d. Part IV offenses

ANS: A REF: p. 34 OBJ: LO 2

8. Which of the following is a Part I offense?
- a. Driving under the influence
 - b. Embezzlement
 - c. Drug abuse violations
 - d. Larceny/theft

ANS: D REF: p. 34 OBJ: LO 2

9. In the 1980s, the Department of Justice began seeking ways to improve its data system. The result was the ____.
- a. National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)
 - b. National Crime Victimization (NCVS)
 - c. Self-report surveys
 - d. Uniform Crime Report (UCR)

ANS: A REF: p. 35 OBJ: LO 2

10. Supporters report that ____ gives victims a voice in the criminal justice process.
- a. National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)
 - b. Victim surveys
 - c. Self-report surveys
 - d. The Uniform Crime Report (UCR)

ANS: B REF: p. 36 OBJ: LO 3

11. ____ is a phrase used to describe the actual amount of crime that takes place.
- a. "Hidden figure of crime"
 - b. "Dark prediction of crime"
 - c. "Dark figure of crime"
 - d. "Hidden prediction of crime"

ANS: C REF: p. 35 OBJ: LO 3

12. Self-report surveys are designed to gather crime data from:
- a. Victims
 - b. Participants' their own involvement in crime
 - c. People with knowledge of other people's criminal activity
 - d. Law enforcement officers' involvement with their own illegal activity while on the job

ANS: B REF: p. 37 OBJ: LO 3

13. In what form of data collection are persons asked directly, through personal interviews or questionnaires or over the telephone, about specific criminal activity to which they may have been a party?
- a. National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)
 - b. National Victimization Survey (NCVS)
 - c. Self-report surveys
 - d. Uniform Crime Report (UCR)

ANS: C REF: p. 37 OBJ: LO 3

14. The "dark figure of crime" appears to be:
- a. Much higher than suggested by the UCR
 - b. Much lower than suggested by the UCR
 - c. Slightly lower than suggested by the UCR
 - d. Consistent with the UCR

ANS: A REF: p. 38 OBJ: LO 3

15. In the twentieth century crime declined most between _____.
- a. 1930-1940
 - b. 1990-2000
 - c. 1950-1960
 - d. 1970-1980

ANS: B REF: p. 39 OBJ: LO 4

16. While traditionally overlooked in criminological research, _____ are the fastest growing minority group in the U.S. prison population.
- a. African Americans
 - b. Asians
 - c. Hispanics
 - d. American Indians

ANS: C REF: p. 42 OBJ: LO 4

17. Which of the following is true about the relationship between class and crime?
- a. The highest crime rates in the United States are consistently recorded in the low-income, urban neighborhoods
 - b. Poverty causes crime
 - c. The majority of residents in low-income neighborhoods are criminals
 - d. Lower-income citizens are more likely to commit white-collar crimes

ANS: A REF: p. 40-41 OBJ: LO 4

18. The number of women in prisons and jails is ____ over time.
- a. Remaining stable
 - b. Decreasing steadily
 - c. Increasing rapidly
 - d. Slowly increasing

ANS: C REF: p. 42 OBJ: LO 4

19. The study of crime is referred to as ____.
- a. Criminal justice
 - b. Criminology
 - c. Psychology
 - d. Sociology

ANS: B REF: p. 43 OBJ: LO 5

20. Researchers who study the causes of crime are:
- a. Victimologists
 - b. Criminologists
 - c. Psychologists
 - d. Sociologists

ANS: B REF: p. 43 OBJ: LO 5

21. What are criminological theories primarily concerned with?
- a. Assisting the criminal justice professional
 - b. Constructing grounds to explain the behavior of criminal justice professionals
 - c. Determining the reasons behind criminal behavior
 - d. Providing support to criminal psychologists

ANS: C REF: p. 44 OBJ: LO 5

22. A theory is:
- a. A relationship between two variables in which they vary together
 - b. An educated guess by a criminologist about the relationship between two variables
 - c. A statement in which a variable is denoted as the cause of change in another variable
 - d. An explanation for a phenomenon based on observation, experimentation, and reasoning

ANS: D REF: p. 44 OBJ: LO 5

23. A proposition that can be tested by researchers to determine if it is valid is a(n):
- a. Hypothesis
 - b. Scientific method
 - c. Theory
 - d. Correlation

ANS: A REF: p. 44 OBJ: LO 5

24. A theory of crime in which offenders weigh the possible benefits of criminal activity against the costs of being apprehended is:
- a. Choice theory
 - b. Social disorganization theory
 - c. Social process theory
 - d. Trait theory

ANS: A REF: p. 44 OBJ: LO 5

25. According to Jack Katz, the emotional or sensual rush a criminal experiences upon the successful completion of a crime is referred to as:
- a. "Crime adrenalin"
 - b. "Criminal benefit"
 - c. "Rush sensation"
 - d. "Seduction of crime"

ANS: D REF: p. 44 OBJ: LO 5

26. Choice theorists believe the best way to deter crime is to:
- a. Increase the severity of the punishment for offending
 - b. Provide counseling and treatment for those individuals at risk for offending
 - c. Establish programs to strengthen communities
 - d. Divert juvenile offenders from the criminal justice system

ANS: A REF: p. 45 OBJ: LO 5

27. Which theory suggests that certain biological or psychological traits in individuals could incline them toward criminal behavior given a certain set of circumstances?
- a. Choice theory
 - b. Social process theory
 - c. Social structure theory
 - d. Trait theory

ANS: D REF: p. 45 OBJ: LO 6

28. Which of the following is **NOT** one of the three neurotransmitters that seem particularly related to aggressive behavior?
- a. Serotonin
 - b. Norepinephrine
 - c. Dopamine
 - d. Testosterone

ANS: D REF: p. 46 OBJ: LO 6

29. Epidemiologist Paul Goldstein has devised three models to explain the relationship between drugs and crime. Which of the below is **NOT** one of them?
- a. Chronic offender model
 - b. Psychopharmacological model
 - c. Economically impulsive model
 - d. Systemic model

ANS: A REF: p. 54 OBJ: LO 6

30. Which theory believes that deviant behavior is more likely in communities where social institutions such as the family, schools, and the criminal justice system fail to exert control over the population?
- a. Choice theory
 - b. Social disorganization theory
 - c. Social process theory
 - d. Trait theory

ANS: B REF: p. 47 OBJ: LO 6

31. Shaw and McKay studied high-crime neighborhoods and discovered that these “zones” were characterized by ____, or a breakdown in schools, families, and community groups.
- a. Chaos
 - b. Conflict
 - c. Disorganization
 - d. Disruption

ANS: C REF: p. 47 OBJ: LO 6

32. According to ____, criminal offending is the result of interactions with parents, friends and peer groups.
- a. Choice theory
 - b. Social disorganization theory
 - c. Social process theory
 - d. Trait theory

ANS: C REF: p. 48 OBJ: LO 6

33. A theory that sees crime as a form of learned behavior is ____.
- a. Labeling theory
 - b. Learning theory
 - c. Social process theory
 - d. Trait theory

ANS: B REF: p. 48 OBJ: LO 6

34. A theory that contends that if someone is labeled "delinquent" or "criminal" by authority figures, there is a better chance that the person will consider himself or herself as such and continue the criminal behavior is:
- a. Labeling theory
 - b. Learning theory
 - c. Social process theory
 - d. Trait theory

ANS: A REF: p. 48-49 OBJ: LO 6

35. Learning theory was popularized by:
- a. Cesare Lombroso
 - b. Clifford Shaw
 - c. Edwin Sutherland
 - d. Henry McKay

ANS: C REF: p. 48 OBJ: LO 6

36. Because adult criminals are seen as too "hardened" to unlearn their criminal behavior, crime prevention policies associated with ____ theory focus on juvenile offenders.

- a. Choice
- b. Social disorganization
- c. Social process
- d. Social conflict

ANS: C REF: p. 49 OBJ: LO 6

37. Social conflict theory focuses on ____ as a key component in explaining crime.

- a. Choice
- b. The community
- c. Learning
- d. Power

ANS: D REF: p. 49 OBJ: LO 6

38. What is the school of criminology that is often associated with a critique of our capitalist economic system?

- a. Labeling
- b. Social conflict
- c. Social disorganization
- d. Social process

ANS: B REF: p. 49-51 OBJ: LO 6

39. The theory that certain people are more likely to be victims of crime, and therefore part victimization is a strong predictor of future victimization is _____.

- a. Repeat victimization
- b. System revictimization
- c. Victim profiling
- d. Routine activities theory

ANS: A REF: p. 52 OBJ: LO 7

40. According to _____ crime occurs when three factors are present: a likely offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian.

- a. Choice theory
- b. Social disorganization
- c. Social process theory
- d. Routine activity theory

ANS: D REF: p. 51 OBJ: LO 7

41. To understand the basics of addiction and physical dependence, you must understand the role of _____ in the brain.

- a. Serotonin
- b. Norepinephrine
- c. Dopamine
- d. Histamine

ANS: C REF: p. 54 OBJ: LO 7

42. A model that holds that drug abusers commit crimes as a direct result of the drugs they have ingested is _____.

- a. The psychopharmacological model
- b. The economically impulsive model
- c. The physical addiction model
- d. The systemic model

ANS: A REF: p. 54 OBJ: LO 7

43. A delinquent or criminal who commits multiple offenses and is considered part of a small group of wrongdoers who are responsible for a majority of the antisocial activity in any given community is a:

- a. Constant criminal
- b. Chronic offender
- c. Career offender
- d. Persistent perpetrator

ANS: B REF: p. 55 OBJ: LO 8

44. According to Wolfgang, Figlio, and Sellin, what percent of juvenile offenders has been shown to be responsible for a disproportionate amount of violent crime?

- a. 6%
- b. 10%
- c. 14%
- d. 80%

ANS: A REF: p. 55 OBJ: LO 8

45. A chronic offender is also referred to as a _____.

- a. Career criminal
- b. Constant criminal
- c. Chronic victim
- d. Persistent perpetrator

ANS: A REF: p. 55

TRUE/FALSE

1. The UCR presents crime data collected annually from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

ANS: T REF: p. 33 OBJ: LO 1

2. The crime rate is expressed per 10,000 people.

ANS: F REF: p. 33 OBJ: LO 1

3. There are seven Part II offenses listed in the UCR.

ANS: F REF: p. 34 OBJ: LO 2

4. Part I offenses are recorded by the FBI to give a general idea of the “crime picture” in the United States.

ANS: T REF: p. 34 OBJ: LO 2

5. The National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is an annual measure of victimization in the United States.

ANS: F REF: p. 36 OBJ: LO 2

6. Victim surveys are used to collect data from criminals and victims of crime.

ANS: F REF: p. 36 OBJ: LO 3

7. The dark figure of crime refers to those offenses that are committed, but are unknown to the police.

ANS: T REF: p. 36 OBJ: LO 3

8. Crime is an overwhelmingly male activity.

ANS: T REF: p. 42 OBJ: LO 4

9. A correlation between variables means that one variable causes change in another variable.

ANS: F REF: p. 43 OBJ: LO 5

10. There are currently no theories that associate physical characteristics with criminality.

ANS: F REF: p. 45-46 OBJ: LO 6

11. Trait theorists believe that crime is best addressed by punishing criminal offenders.

ANS: F REF: p. 46 OBJ: LO 6

12. Social conflict theories say that the "labeling" of someone as a delinquent increases the chance that the person will see himself or herself as a delinquent and continue with criminal behaviors.

ANS: F REF: p. 48 OBJ: LO 6

13. Victimology is a school of criminology that studies why certain people are the victims of crimes and the optimal role for victims in the criminal justice system.

ANS: T REF: p. 51 OBJ: LO 7

14. All individuals are at equal risk of being victimized by crime.

ANS: F REF: p. 53 OBJ: LO 7

15. As a reaction to the research of the "chronic 6%," law enforcement agencies and district attorneys' offices have devised specific strategies to apprehend and prosecute repeat offenders.

ANS: T REF: p. 55 OBJ: LO 8

COMPLETION

1. The _____ refers to the actual amount of crime that takes place.

ANS: Dark figure of crime REF: p. 36 OBJ: LO 3

2. _____ denotes national or cultural background.

ANS: Ethnicity REF: p. 42 OBJ: LO 4

3. A proposition that can be tested by researchers to determine if it is valid is a(n) _____.

ANS: Hypothesis REF: p. 44 OBJ: LO 5

4. The hormone _____ has been associated with aggression.

ANS: Testosterone REF: p. 46 OBJ: LO 6

5. The theory that certain people are more likely to be subject to criminal activity because of past victimization is _____.

ANS: Repeat victimization REF: p. 52 OBJ: LO 7

ESSAY

1. Describe the Uniform Crime Report (UCR). Who compiles this crime measurement source, when was it created, and what does it include?

ANS:

- o The UCR was created in 1930.
- o The UCR has attempted to measure the overall rate of crime in the United States by organizing "crimes known to the police."
- o The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) relies on voluntary participation of local law enforcement agencies.
- o Three basic measurements include number of persons arrested; number of crimes reported by victims, witnesses, or police themselves; and number of officers and support law enforcement specialists.

REF: p. 33-34 OBJ: LO 1

2. What is meant by "the dark figure of crime?" Are there sources that help to reveal this "dark figure?"

ANS:

- o The "dark figure of crime" is a term used to describe the actual amount of crime that takes place.
- o The "figure" is "dark," or impossible to detect, because a great number of crimes are never reported to the police.
- o Victim surveys help reveal the actual amount of crime that occurs, but may not be reported to police.
- o For reasons of shame, embarrassment, lack of knowledge about the crime, or fear of reprisal, a victim may not report a crime to police, thus causing "the dark figure of crime" to exist.
- o Higher victimization rates are revealed through victimization surveys than through the UCR, indicating the existence of "the dark figure of crime."

REF: p. 36-37 OBJ: LO 3

3. Discuss the difference between a hypothesis and a theory in the context of criminology. Why is the scientific method an important part of criminology?

ANS:

- o A hypothesis is a possible explanation for an observed occurrence that can be tested by further investigation.
- o A theory is an explanation of a happening or circumstance that is based on observation, experimentation, and reasoning.
- o If criminologists find a hypothesis to be valid, it may be accepted as a theory. This process is known as the scientific method.
- o Scientific method allows criminologists to systematically and scientifically explore the validity of their various explanations for criminal offending.

REF: p. 43-44 OBJ: LO 5

4. Discuss Social Process theories. Include descriptions of two particular theories found within this school of criminology.

ANS:

- o Social process theories are a school of criminology that considers criminal behavior to be the predictable result of a person's interaction with his or her environment.
- o According to these theories, everybody has the potential for wrongdoing.
- o Those who act on this potential are conditioned to do so by family or peer groups or by institutions such as the media.
- o Learning theory is the hypothesis that delinquents and criminals must be taught both the practical and emotional skills necessary to partake in illegal activity.
- o Labeling theory is the hypothesis that society creates crime and criminals by labeling certain behavior and certain people as deviant; the stigma that results from this social process excludes a person from the community, thereby increasing the chances that she or he will adopt the label as her or his identity and engage in a pattern of criminal behavior.

REF: p. 47-49 OBJ: LO 6

5. Discuss *Delinquency in a Birth Cohort*, as published by Marvin Wolfgang, Robert Figlio, and Thorsten Sellin, including reference to the policy implications that have followed this research.

ANS:

- o This text established the idea of the chronic offender, or career criminal.
- o This work also showed that a small group of juvenile offenders (6%) were responsible for a disproportionate amount of the violent crime attributed to a group of nearly 10,000 young males.
- o Further research has supported the idea of a "chronic 6%."
- o Law enforcement agencies and district attorneys' offices have devised specific strategies to apprehend and prosecute repeat offenders.
- o Habitual offender laws have provided harsher sentences for repeat offenders.

REF: p. 55 OBJ: LO 8