

TOPIC: CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

Types of Crime

◆ In the United States, there are three major categories of crime:

Crimes Against the Person	Crimes Against Property	Victimless Crimes
_____ Crime	_____ Crime	<i>Crimes Without Complaint</i>
Crimes involving violence, or _____ of violence, against others.	Crimes involving _____ or harm of property belonging to others.	Crimes in which the perpetrator is _____ explicitly harming another person.
Includes: Murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, rape, robbery.	Includes: burglary, larceny-theft, auto-theft, arson, vandalism.	Includes: Illegal drug use, prostitution, gambling.

EXAMPLE

Place each type of crime into the correct category.

Crime Against the Person	
Crimes Against Property	
Victimless Crimes	

a) Gambling e) Aggravated assault
b) Arson f) Illegal drug use
c) Homicide g) Armed robbery
d) Larceny-theft

TOPIC: CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

PRACTICE

Which of the following would be considered a **property** crime?

- a) Assaulting someone at a bar.
- b) Stealing a parked car without confronting the owner.
- c) Threatening someone with a weapon while stealing their wallet.
- d) Using illegal drugs.

PRACTICE

Which statement best reflects the sociological meaning of a “victimless crime.”

- a) The crime cannot be prosecuted in court.
- b) The behavior is not technically illegal, but it is socially unacceptable.
- c) The behavior causes no harm to society.
- d) There is no person (outside of the offender) directly harmed by the crime.

TOPIC: CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

Crime Statistics

Reported Crime Rates
Crimes that are reported to the police.

- Give information on:**
- Crimes brought to police attention.
 - Broad trends in reported victimization and types of crime taking place.

- Influenced by:**
- Underreporting

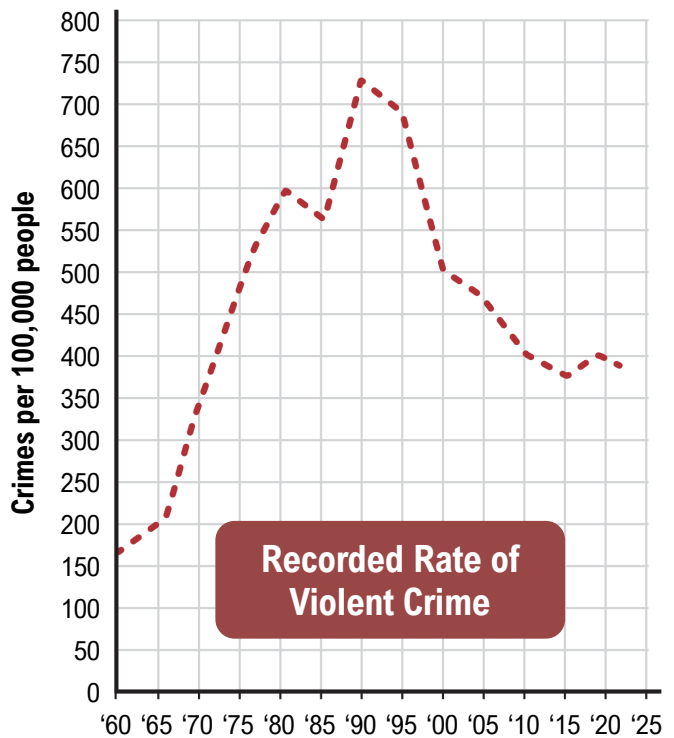
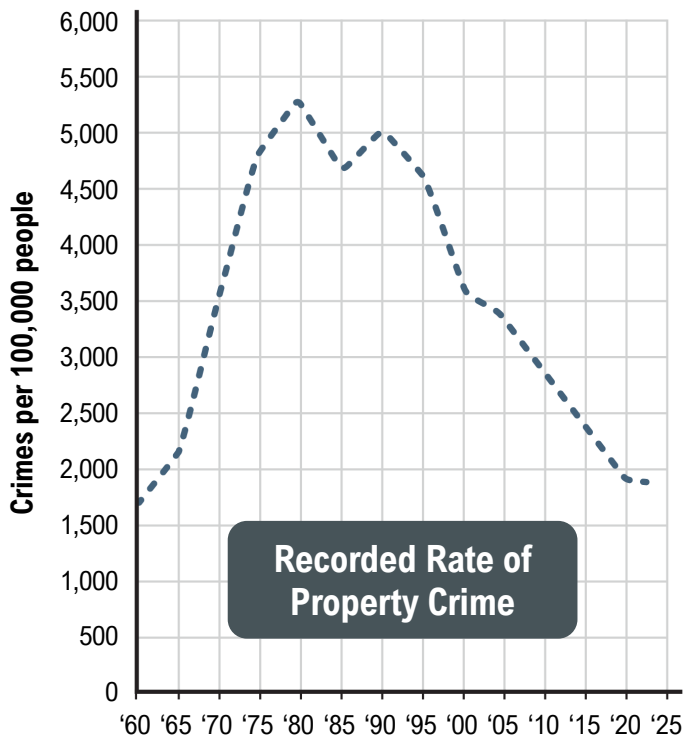
Arrest Rates
Number of people arrested for a specific offense.

- Give information on:**
- Police action and enforcement.
 - Who enters the criminal justice system

- Influenced by:**
- Police enforcement priorities and policing practices.

◆ General trends in reported crime:

- Crime rates _____ from 1960 – 1990.
- **Property crimes** _____ from 1990 – 2020, have remained _____.
- **Violent crimes** _____ from 1990 – 2019. _____ in 2020.



TOPIC: CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

Crime Statistics

Offender Age	Arrest rates _____ in adolescence and _____ in adulthood.
Offender Sex	Males are arrested for crimes _____ than females.
Offender Race	Black Americans have higher arrest rates than White Americans.
	Race and _____ are correlated – people of lower SES are more likely to be arrested.
	Black homes have higher rates of _____ parenthood - adolescents more likely to be unsupervised.
	_____ in people who report crimes and people who make arrests.

References:

U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2024). *Crime Data Explorer*. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/home>

EXAMPLE

Which of the following statements is the **most** accurate summary of crime rates in the U.S.?

- a) Crime rates steadily decreased in the decades following 1960.
- b) Crime rates increased until about the 1990's, and then began to decline.
- c) Crime rates have been relatively stable since the 1960's.
- d) Crime rates have steadily increased since the 1960's, peaking in 2020.

TOPIC: CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

PRACTICE

True or False? If false, choose the answer that corrects the statement.

On average, crime rates increase across adulthood, often peaking in middle adulthood.

- a) True.
- b) False; crime rates generally increase across adulthood, often peaking in early adulthood.
- c) False; crime rates remain relatively stable across the lifespan.
- d) False; crime rates generally increase across adolescence and decrease across adulthood.

PRACTICE

Which of the following is a **direct** risk factor for adolescents engaging in deviant behavior?

- a) Lack of adult supervision.
- b) Participation in organized activities.
- c) Only having 1-2 close friends.
- d) Getting poor grades.