

Lecture 4:

Extent and Nature:

Self-Reports

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recap: 3 "pictures"

- General trends (refer to UCR figures in last lecture):
 - Most youth crime is property crime
 - Overall rise since 1960s; violent rise in 80s-90s, decline since late 1990s
 - Recent rise?

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"bivariate correlates" of youth crime

1. **Age:** property peak at 16 violent later at 17-18
2. **Sex:** males are 85% of violent index; 75% total
3. **Race:** African-Americans over 40% of all violent index
 - *Interaction of age, sex, and race:* African-American males aged 14-24 make up 15% of homicide victims and 27% of offenders. This group is about 1% of the population
4. **Ethnicity:** Latino overrepresentation in murder (?)
5. **Class:** kids from low-income census tracts most arrested
6. **Chronics:** 6% of male population responsible for 50% of arrests
7. **Local trends:** fewer violent as percent of total; but percent violent increased until mid-90s

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problems with police picture

1. "Dark Figure" or tip of the Iceberg- most youth crime is concealed (e.g. drug use) or unreported (e.g. theft)
 - Systematic versus random error
2. Changing norms and expectations (marijuana, prostitution)
3. Changes in police priorities or "crackdowns"
4. Police professionalization as emergent process
5. No information on group offending
6. Local biases, misclassifications;
7. UCRs stop at arrest stage (cases dropped)
8. If multiple crimes by same offender, only most serious reported
9. No federal crimes in UCR (comparatively minor flaw)

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self-reports: a second picture of delinquency

- Key Concepts
 - Prevalence (participation) and
 - Incidence (frequency)
- "Monitoring the Future"
 - ~50,000 students in 400 schools each year since 1975
 - drug use, delinquency, and attitudes
- Methodology
 - sampling and external validity
 - response bias and internal validity
 - operationalization
 - measuring rape

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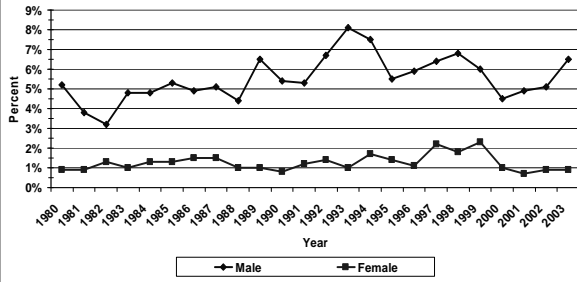
bivariate correlates

- Age
- Sex
- Race/Ethnicity
- Social Class
- Chronics/High-incidence offending
- Group delinquency or co-offending

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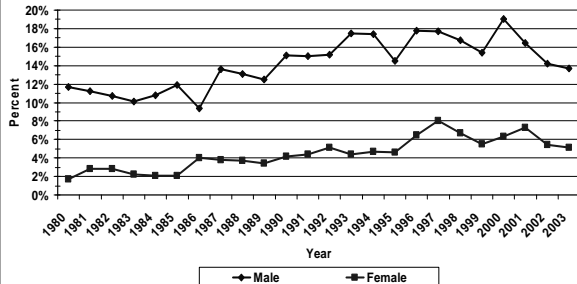
Self-Reported Use of Gun or Knife to Get Something by Sex (Armed Robbery), 1980-2003



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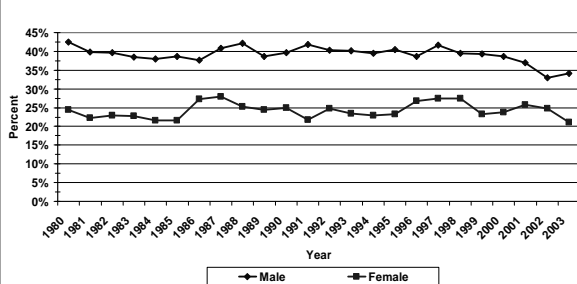
Self-reported Taking Something Worth over \$50 by Sex (Larceny), 1980-2003



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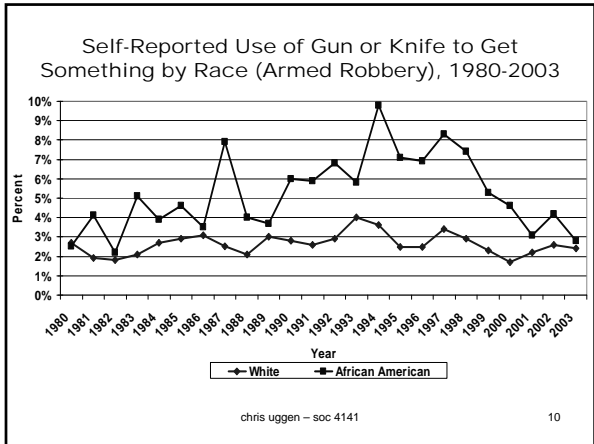
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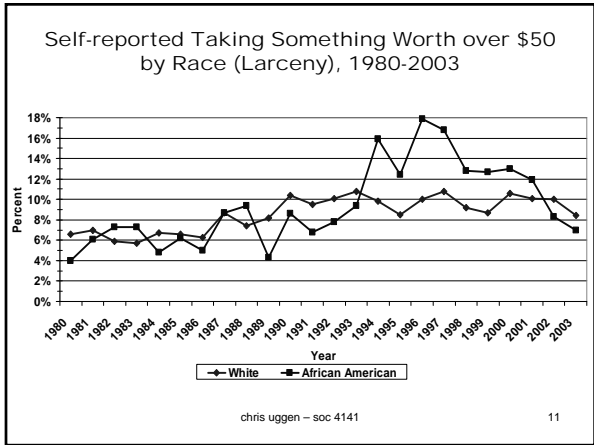
Self-reported Taking Something Worth less than \$50 by Sex (Petty Theft), 1980-2003

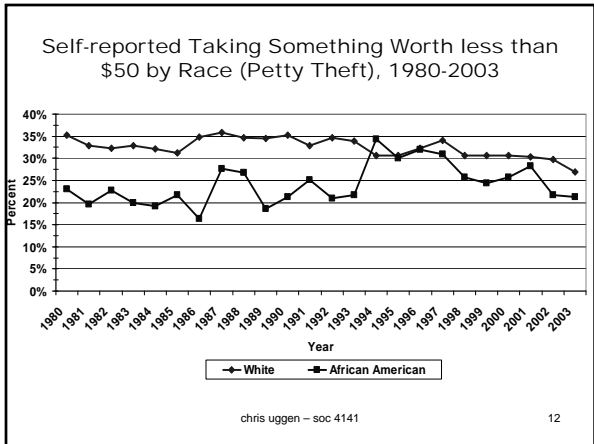


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lifetime use: 2003 12th graders

- Alcohol 77%
- Cigarettes 54%
- Any illicit drug 51%
- Marijuana 46%
- Amphetamines 14%
- Tranquilizers 10%
- Cocaine 8%
- MDMA (X) 8%
- LSD 6%
- Methamphetamine 6%
- Steroids 4%

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class self-report survey

- **CLASS SELF-REPORT SURVEY**
 - *Disclaimer*
 - *Overview of findings*
 - *Calculating Prevalence and Incidence*

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index crimes

offense	prevalence		incidence		avg
	n	%	f		
INDEX PERSONAL					
rape	0	0%	0.0		0.0
robbery	1	2%	1.0		0.0
agg. assault	8	15%	16.5		0.3
INDEX PROPERTY					
burglary	8	15%	14.5		0.3
larceny-theft	13	25%	30.5		0.6
auto theft	12	23%	33.0		0.6
arson	0	0%	0.0		0.0
INDEX SUBTOTAL					1.8

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other nonindex

offense	Prevalence		incidence		avg
	n	%	f		
assault	19	37%	32.0		0.6
weapon	4	8%	17.0		0.3
vandalism	10	19%	20.0		0.4
solicitation	2	4%	3.0		0.1
petty \$5-50	27	52%	84.5		1.6
petty <\$5	41	79%	126.0		2.4
"OTHER" SUBTOTAL					5.4

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substance use

offense	prevalence		incidence		avg
	n	%	f		
cocaine	8	15%	36.0		0.7
marijuana	37	71%	156.0		3.0
lsd/shroom	8	15%	18.0		0.3
dist.liquor	38	73%	131.0		2.5
dealer-mj	9	17%	32.5		0.6
dealer-nonmj	5	10%	14.0		0.3
DRUG SUBTOTAL					7.5

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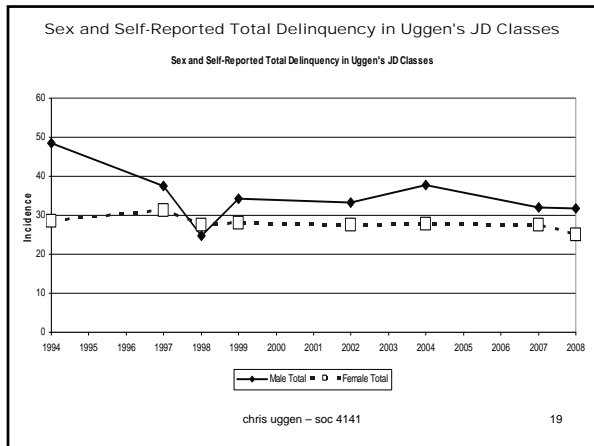
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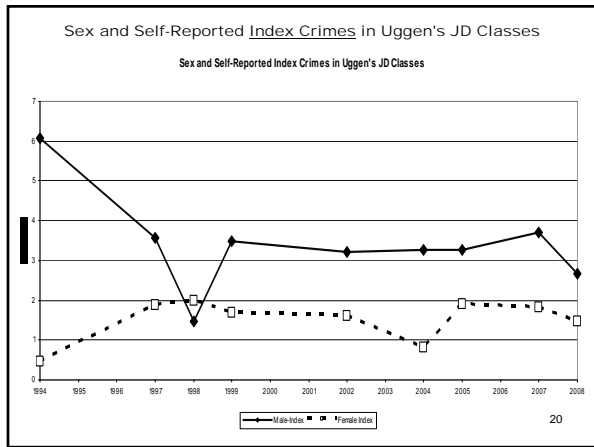
Average Incidence of Self-Reported Delinquency by Sex in Soc 4141 Spring 2008 (with 2007 in parentheses)

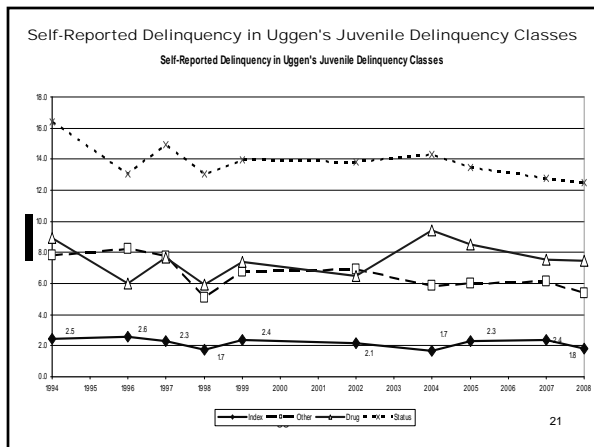
	Index	Other	Drug	Status
male	2.7 (3.7)	7.6 (8.8)	9.7 (8.2)	11.9 (11.4)
female	1.5 (1.8)	4.4 (5.2)	6.4 (7.4)	12.8 (13.2)

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GROUP EXERCISE ON SRD

- Form groups of 3-5;
- Discuss hypotheses on handout
- Hand in 1 sheet of paper signed by all

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Critique of Self-Report Studies

- Data problems
- Reliability?
- Internal validity: reverse record checks
- External validity or generalizability
- Few analogous ADULT measures of self-reported crime (yet)

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next

- Victimization
- Cobain book

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