

Lecture 7: A.Gangs,
Neighborhoods, and
B. Social Disorganization
REVIEW

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gangs

- Start as we did in defining "juvenile delinquency."
 - What are we talking about?
 - What is the police perspective? The sociologist's perspective? The gang member's perspective?
- Your definitions vs. "classic" definitions

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produce a gang definition

- Include diverse distinctive gang behavior (but exclude the U of M football team)
- Start with a list of characteristics that you think all gangs share
 - Behaviors and activities
 - Attitudes and beliefs
 - Leadership
 - Patterns of social interaction
 - Legal and/or illegal activities
 - Demographics: age, sex, urban residence, income, etc.
- Then formalize your definition, write it on a sheet of paper, and hand it in with the names of all group members

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classic definitions - thrasher

- *F. Thrasher* (1927): A gang is an interstitial group, originally formed spontaneously, and then integrated through conflict. It is characterized by the following types of behavior: meeting face to face, milling, movement through space as a unit, conflict, and planning. The result of this collective behavior is the development of tradition, unreflective internal structure, *esprit de corps*, solidarity, morale, group awareness, and attachment to local territory.
- Elements
 - form in "cracks" of social fabric
 - face-to-face interaction
 - conflict gives common enemies: "men are closest to their brothers when they join in stoning others"
- Critique: too inclusive, fits football teams

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classic definitions - miller

- *W. Miller* (1982): A youth gang is a self-formed association of peers, bound together by mutual interests, with identifiable leadership, well-developed lines of authority, and other organizational features, who act in concert to achieve a specific purpose which generally includes the conduct of illegal activity and control over a particular territory, facility, or type of enterprise.
- Elements
 - some level of organization
 - identifiable leaders
 - territory
 - recurrent associations
 - specific purpose
 - illegal activity

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Esbensen/NYGS definition

- *Finn Esbensen* - Youth Gang has:
 - 3 or more members
 - Shared identity (name, colors, symbols)
 - Limited age range (12-24)
 - Some permanence and degree of organization
 - Illegal activity
 - [association with geographic area]

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scale?

- 2015 National Gang Intelligence Center
 - Estimates 33,000 US gangs (2011 report)
 - 1.4 million active gang members (precision?)
 - 88% are in nbhd-based street gangs, 9.5% prison gangs, 2.5% outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMG)
 - Tie to extremist groups, military and government
 - Most active on Facebook, Youtube, Instagram, & Twitter (less so on Snapchat, Google+, Flickr, WhatsApp, kik)
- Thornberry et al: gang members responsible for large proportion (2/3 in some studies) of serious violent juvenile offenses
- Blumstein: gangs/guns/crack and youth homicide trends chris uggan - soc 4141

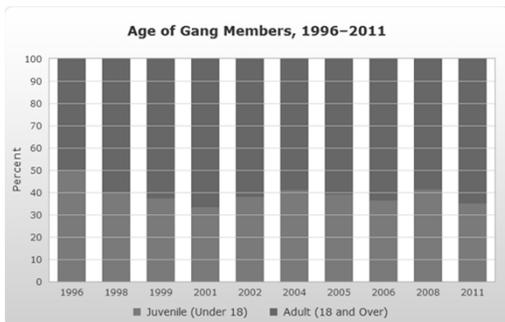
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Estimated Gangs per 1,000 population by State (NGIS 2011:13)

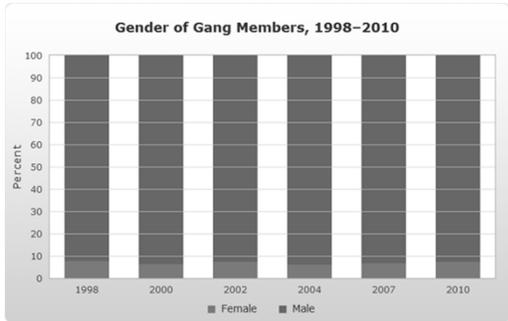


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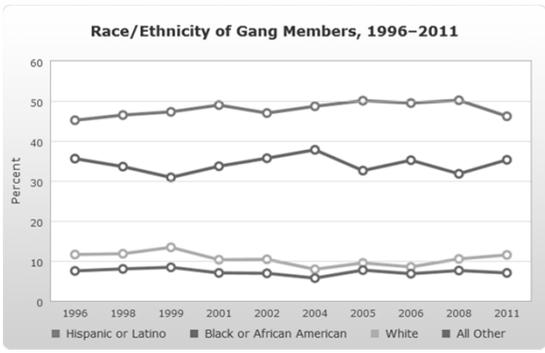
NYGS: aging gangs (esp urban)



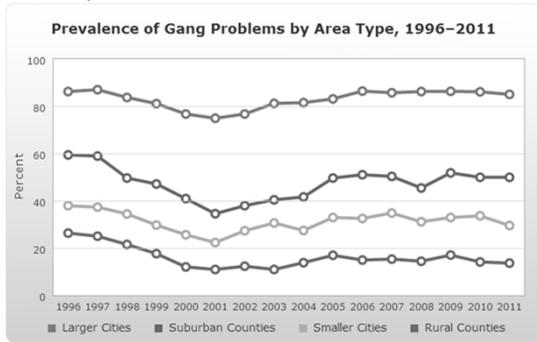
NYGS Sex: at least 92% male



NYGS race/ethnicity



agencies reporting gang problems (drop in late-'90s; stable since '05)





Rios & Panopticon - Ch. 3-4

- Inverting Foucault's panopticon (89)
 - boy at center, surrounded by social control
 - no discipline; informal social or self-control
- Tyrell: Violence as collection agent
 - Electronic monitoring (p. 65)
- Jose: Gang-based attack on Puppet (p. 67)
 - 2 wks detention -> 6m group home -> Camp Sweeney commitment for gun (culture of street justice at camps; PO advice?)
- Schools, police, POs reinforced code

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Rios 4: "zookeepers"

- Well-intentioned adults participated in criminalization of the boys
 - Victims: Spider stabbed at 15, erroneously registered as a gang member (p. 77)
- Teachers & "continuation school"
 - Criminalize via threats; drugs; narcs
- Parents & "courtesy stigma"
 - Parenting lessons from institutions
- Probation, CJ in community centers
 - Parents, teachers, POs, police
 - High expectations; little support p. 84;
 - magnifying glass effect -> minor arrests
 - Anger management; life skills courses taught by P.O.s (snitching); no funding for youth workers

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7B. Social Structural Theories

- Contrast with individual or social-psychological theories
 - Social Disorganization
 - Anomie and Opportunity
 - Conflict
 - Gender-based
- "Root" social and cultural causes
- Then, *Delinquent Careers in the Juvenile Justice System*

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Social Disorganization Theory

- Background
 - Race, ethnicity, and "Born Criminals"
 - Clifford Shaw & Henry McKay (1942) : a sharp rebuke to racist stereotypes
- Assumptions
 - Delinquency due to breakdown of community institutional controls
 - Normative consensus
 - Disorganization is caused by rapid social change (industrialization, urbanization, immigration)
 - Social disorganization leads to self-perpetuating criminal values and traditions

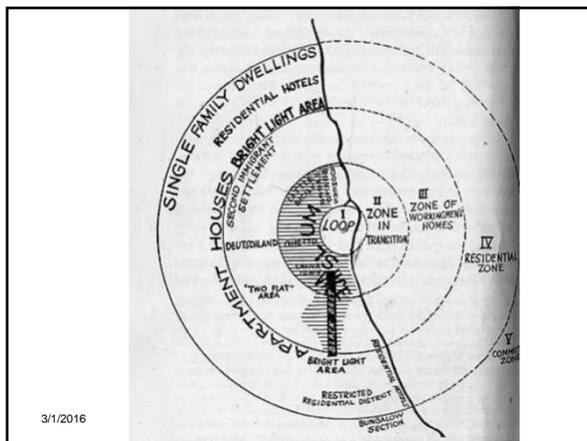


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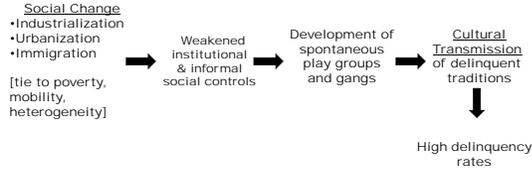
Social Disorganization

- Conceptual Tools
 - Social disorganization
 - Ethnic succession
 - Cultural transmission of delinquent traditions (p. 387 - "traditional behavior")
- Methods
 - Maps! Descriptive statistics
 - Life histories
- Critique
 - Ecological stability
 - Ethnic groups do not intermingle
 - Measurement: "disorganization" = crime

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• SIMPLIFIED SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION DIAGRAM



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policy and extensions

- Policy Implications: Chicago Area Projects
 - Recreation, neighborhood health and sanitation, indigenous gang workers
 - Little evaluation data (Boston Midcity - no effect)
 - But, "moving to opportunity" experiment shows promise in reducing violent crime - at least for girls
- Extensions: Robert Sampson (CWB) and "Neighborhood Collective Efficacy"
 - Combines social cohesion with shared expectations for social control (p. 152)
 - Survey measures of reaction to kids hanging out, firehouse closing; plus trust/cohesion of neighbors (correlated -.3 with crime rates in meta-analysis)
 - Videotaping physical and social disorder

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Robert Sampson (Immigration as Protective against Violence)

- Neighborhoods that can realize their own values have lower crime rates
- But! Immigration story is different today
 - Not "suicidal maniacs" p. 29, but lower crime
 - "Latino Paradox"
 - higher perceptions of disorder, but lower disorder
 - Raise denominator/not numerator
 - Vibrant low-crime cities
- Intact families as mechanism (e.g., Kubrin)



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Next

- Review and
- Exam!
- Monday office hours 4-6 if needed

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