

Criminology

- **The discipline that studies,**
- How criminal behavior is defined
- The forms criminal behavior takes
- The causes of criminal behavior
- How society reacts to criminal behavior

Defining Criminal Behavior

- **Crime = an act that,**
- Violates a criminal law
- For which a punishment is prescribed
- Committed intentionally
- Legally indefensible or unjustified

Crime

- Socially constructed phenomenon
- Behavior that has been perceived and characterized as deviant

Law

- Also socially constructed
- Criminalizes certain behaviors by outlawing, policing, and punishing them.

Mal in se

- Inherently bad
- Murder, assault, rape, theft.

Mala Prohibita

- Bad because it is prohibited
- Prostitution, gambling, drug dealing

Why is research important?

- Knowledge policy, and practice should be based on the best evidence
- Evidence comes from research

What is the research question?

- Why males are more likely to engage in more criminal activity than woman?
- Variable in the issue,
- Concept to be measured can vary or take different values.

Independent variable

- Stands alone and isn't changed by other variables trying to be measured
- Presumed to be the cause (ex: gender)

Depended Variable

- Something that depends on other factors
- Presumed to be the effect (ex: criminal behavior)

Theory to be tested

- Theories attempt to,
- Develop a reasonable explanation of reality
- Understand how all known correlates of a phenomenon work together to produce an effect
- Leads to hypothesis

How to test hypothesis

- Research methods = the strategies used to collect and analyze data or facts
- Essential elements of measurement
- Validity = accuracy
- Reliability = consistency and stability