

Criminal Justice

Exam 2 Study Guide

Correlations of Crime:

Age and Crime

- No finding is stronger than the age-crime curve in criminology
- Involvement in crime is low early in life, will peak between ages of 18-25, and then decreases with age
- Latent Trait Approach- age distribution of crime is invariant across social and cultural conditions
 - Age has a different effect on crime
 - No factor (or combination of factors) can explain the age-crime relationship
 - Self Control Theory- the tendency of individuals to consider the long term consequences of their actions
 - Focus is placed on early childhood socialization in the family, which can produce an enduring criminal predisposition called low self-control
- Life Course Approach- age distribution of crime is not invariant; age has an indirect effect on crime; age is correlated with important vents or factors which are highly related to crime
 - Warr- age → peers → delinquency; they found that age doesn't have an impact on delinquency once peer influences are controlled for
 - Laub & Sampson-

Stages/Process of Justice (each step and the order)

- Police
 - 1) Initial contact
 - 2) Investigation
 - 3) Arrest
 - 4) Custody
- Courts
 - 5) Charges
 - 6) First Appearance
 - 7) Preliminary Hearing/ Grand Jury
 - 8) Arraignment
 - 9) Plea Bargaining
 - 10) Trial/adjudication
 - 11) Disposition

Police:

- Functions of police
- Police Selection Process

- o In many communities it's based on a merit system
 - A system of employment whereby an independent civil service commission, in cooperation with the city personnel selection and the police department, sets employment qualifications, performance standards, and discipline procedures
- o Officers employed under such a system are hired and tenured (theoretically) if they meet and maintain the employment qualifications and performance standards
- o They cannot be fired without cause
- o Process:
 - Short app
 - Detailed app (complete work history, references, & medical profile)
 - Medical examination
 - Physical agility test
 - Written exam
 - Background investigation
 - Psychological test
 - Oral interview
 - Academy training
 - Probation, usually 6 months to a year, which includes formal field training
- Police Duties & Responsibilities
 - o Detectives- don't wear uniforms, anonymity during work hours (if they choose), steady work hours, offices and desks
 - Activities: incident report & preliminary investigation, evidence collection and processing, screening and case assignment, follow up investigation, clearance and arrest, file maintenance
 - o Patrol- "the backbone" of the department (it's the most time consuming and resource-intensive task officers undertake), respond to burglar alarms, investigate traffic accidents, care for injured people, solve domestic disputes, respond to radio calls, arrests, traffic directions/patrol, preliminary investigations
- Police issues
 - o Police use of corruption*
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 - o Making the arrest
 - 58% are felony encounters
 - 42% are misdemeanors
 - o Discretion
 - The use of personal decision making and choice when carrying out the operations of the criminal justice system
 - o Factors influencing use of deadly force; police misconduct

- Jurisdiction- cities versus rural areas, population characteristics (economic), level of violence in an area
 - Police Workload- ratio of number of calls, arrests by officers, police stress
 - Firearm Availability- larger # of crimes committed with firearms, higher police violence, gun density (proportion of suicides and murders with guns)
 - Research and findings; avenues to control incidents
 - Fleeing felon rule
- Police trends
 - Technology
 - Computer aided dispatch programs
 - Police dispatcher assisted by a computer
 - Establishes priority for response to calls
 - Assists dispatcher with details (streets, caller)
 - AVL devices (Automatic Vehicle Locators)
 - Laptop computer, radio devices, etc. in patrol cars
 - Online search and match capabilities
 - Community
 - Proactive problem solving that goes beyond law enforcement/arrest to include fear and social disorders
 - Community participation in assessing arrest,; fear and social disorders
 - Community policing vs. traditional policing strategies
 - Increases contact between police and community members
 - Expands the duties/definition of police work
 - Decentralizes police departments
 - Emphasizes community involvement via organizations, surveys, joint agencies
 - Community Policing- a policing strategy and philosophy based on the notion that community interaction and support can help control crime and reduce fear, with community members helping to identify suspects, detain vandals, and bring problems to the attention of the police