

Chapter 2 - The Nature and Extent of Crime

Test Bank

Completion

1. The _____ is responsible for compiling the large database of statistics known as the Uniform Crime Report.

ANSWER: FBI

2. The eight serious and frequent crimes the FBI reports on annually, which include crimes such as murder, rape, and robbery, are referred to as _____.

ANSWER: Part I Index Crimes

3. _____ is referred to as the unlawful attack against another for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury

ANSWER: Aggravated assault

4. The FBI's _____ is the best known and most widely cited source of official criminal statistics.

ANSWER: Uniform Crime Report

5. The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft is known as a _____.

ANSWER: burglary

6. Crimes are cleared in two ways: through arrest, charging, and being turned over to the court, or through _____ means.

ANSWER: exceptional

7. Traditionally, about _____ percent of all reported index crimes are cleared by arrest each year.

ANSWER: 20

8. In regard to the Uniform Crime Reports, the three areas of concern for validity and reliability issues are law enforcement, reporting practices, and _____ practices.

ANSWER: methodological

9. The _____ requires local law enforcement to provide a brief account of each arrest within 22 categories of crime patterns.

ANSWER: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

10. A(n) _____ is referred to as the selection of a limited number of people from a larger group for study.

ANSWER: Sample

11. The Bureau of Justice Statistics sponsors one of the largest victim-related surveys, known as the:

_____.

ANSWER: National Crime Victimization Survey.

12. A _____ is a survey in which data about all variables related to a given population are collected in order to determine crime rates.

ANSWER: cross-sectional survey

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13. A type of survey in which criminals are surveyed to gain a true representation of criminal offending not captured by official measures such as the UCR are called _____.

ANSWER: self-report surveys

14. Selecting subjects based on their ethnic or racial background is known as _____.

ANSWER: racial profiling

15. A sample of subjects whose behavior is followed over a period of time is referred to as a _____.

ANSWER: cohort

16. The propensity shown in Paternoster et al's study of deviant peers is that people exposed to _____ attitudes toward deviant behavior are more likely to adapt similar behaviors themselves.

ANSWER: positive

17. A _____ study is one that uses an intact cohort of known offenders and looks back into their early life experiences by checking their educational, family, police, and hospital records.

ANSWER: retrospective cohort

18. Criminologists use _____ to create graphic representations of the spatial geography of crime.

ANSWER: crime maps

19. The trend in overall U.S. crime rates has shown a marked _____.

ANSWER: decline

20. Because of limited economic opportunities, it is possible that crime rates may _____ in the future.

ANSWER: rise

21. Most reported crimes occur during the months of July and _____.

ANSWER: August

22. About two-thirds of all murders and 40 percent of robberies involve the use of a _____.

ANSWER: firearm or gun

23. _____ are those committed by indigent people as a result of legitimate opportunities for economic gain.

ANSWER: Instrumental crimes

24. Crimes that have no purpose except accomplishing the goal at hand--for instance, shooting somebody-- are called _____.

ANSWER: expressive crimes

25. _____ refers to the fact that as individuals get older, they are less likely to criminally offend.

ANSWER: Aging-out of crime
Aging-out

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26. The fact that low rates of offending are noticeable with females because of the idea that the criminal justice system treats them lightly is referred to as the _____.

ANSWER: chivalry hypothesis

27. A controversial law in the state of _____ allows for law enforcement to stop or detain individuals they believe are in violation of immigration laws.

ANSWER: Arizona

28. The _____ is the view that women who commit crimes have biological and psychological traits similar to those of men.

ANSWER: masculinity hypothesis

29. A person who repeatedly commits crime, and whose life is centered around criminal activity, is referred to as a(n) _____.

ANSWER: career criminal

30. The 1972 landmark research by Wolfgang, Figlio, and Sellin was titled _____.

ANSWER: *Delinquency in a Birth Cohort*

31. The assumption that those who commit deviant acts at a young age are more likely to offend as adults is referred to as _____.

ANSWER: early onset

Multiple Choice

32. The best known and most widely cited source of official criminal statistics is:

- a. the Bell Curve.
- b. the National Crime Victimization Survey.
- c. the Uniform Incident Reporting System.
- d. the Uniform Crime Report.

ANSWER: d

33. Which crime has the highest clearance rate because of arrests?

- a. robbery
- b. murder
- c. motor vehicle theft
- d. rape

ANSWER: b

34. Part I crimes are also referred to as _____ and include murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, arson, and _____.

- a. indices, embezzlement
- b. indices, domestic violence

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- c. index crimes, larceny
- d. index crimes, embezzlement

ANSWER: c

35. Which of the following is not a contributing factor to inconsistent reporting in the Uniform Crime Reports?
- a. fear of reprisal
 - b. lack of trust in law enforcement
 - c. complex compilation methods
 - d. victims with dirty hands

ANSWER: c

36. A research approach that asks participants, often prisoners, to describe their recent and lifetime criminal activity is termed:
- a. field observation.
 - b. cross-sectional research.
 - c. a self-report survey.
 - d. meta-analysis.

ANSWER: c

37. A police department could use _____ to identify and target locations associated with increased random gunfire during the previous year's New Year's Eve holiday in order to deploy police resources to those areas.
- a. dumpster diving
 - b. meta-analysis
 - c. data mining
 - d. systematic review

ANSWER: c

38. Observing a group of people who share a like characteristic, especially over time, is termed:
- a. sampling.
 - b. cross-sectional research.
 - c. meta-analysis.
 - d. cohort research.

ANSWER: d

39. If criminologists want to see the direct effect of one factor on another, such as determining whether playing violent video games will impact the aggression of players, they conduct:
- a. experimental research.
 - b. aggregate data research.
 - c. cohort research.
 - d. survey research.

ANSWER: a

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40. Because cohort research is extremely difficult and time-consuming, another approach is to take an intact cohort from the past and collect data from their educational, family, police, and hospital records, which is known as a(n) _____ study.
- a. reverse cohort
 - b. transplant
 - c. exposition cohort
 - d. retrospective cohort

ANSWER: d

41. Which best portrays the validity concerns that impact data-collection methods for the UCR?
- a. reporting practices
 - b. methodological problems
 - c. reporting practices and law enforcement practices
 - d. reporting practices, methodological problems, and law enforcement practices

ANSWER: d

42. _____ has been employed to help police departments allocate resources to combat crime based on offense patterns, resulting in the development of predictive policing.
- a. Observational research
 - b. Meta-analysis
 - c. Systematic review
 - d. Data mining

ANSWER: d

43. Although differences between the UCR and the NCVS abound, the greatest distinction between the two is the ability of the:
- a. NCVS to identify crimes committed against those under the age of twelve.
 - b. UCR to identify the social dimension of fear.
 - c. UCR to measure unreported crime.
 - d. NCVS to measure unreported crime.

ANSWER: d

44. If findings from the “Monitoring the Future Study” are accurate, youth crime is:
- a. close to what official statistics reveal.
 - b. much greater than official statistics reveal.
 - c. much lower than official statistics reveal.
 - d. slightly higher than official statistics reveal.

ANSWER: b

45. According to statistics in the text, approximately how many gang members are in the United States?
- a. 250,000

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- b. 400,000
- c. 650,000
- d. 800,000

ANSWER: d

46. Of the following countries, which has the lowest crime and victimization rate?

- a. England
- b. Spain
- c. New Zealand
- d. Ireland

ANSWER: b

47. Most crimes occur in July and August, with the exception of murder, which occurs frequently in:

- a. December and January.
- b. September and October.
- c. February and March.
- d. May and June.

ANSWER: a

48. About two-thirds of murders and 40 percent of robberies involve a(n):

- a. accomplice.
- b. knife.
- c. firearm.
- d. getaway vehicle.

ANSWER: c

49. When measured with UCR data, official statistics indicate that crime rates in inner cities and high-poverty areas are generally _____ compared to wealthier, higher-class neighborhoods.

- a. higher
- b. lower
- c. the same
- d. immeasurable

ANSWER: a

50. Because of the amount of disposable income _____, crime rates may be higher.

- a. on the first day of the month
- b. on the fifteenth day of the month
- c. at the end of the month
- d. every second week

ANSWER: a

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51. A crime, in general, is most likely to occur under which set of conditions?
- a. on an August day with a temperature of 80 degrees
 - b. on a September day with a temperature of 98 degrees
 - c. on an April day with a temperature of 78 degrees
 - d. on a November day with a temperature of 67 degrees

ANSWER: a

52. The phrase “the ecology of crime” refers to:
- a. gender and age.
 - b. social class and economics.
 - c. race and ethnicity.
 - d. season and climate.

ANSWER: d

53. The hypothesis that teens and kids commit crime in groups more often than they act individually is known as the _____ hypothesis.
- a. symmetry
 - b. group offending
 - c. association
 - d. co-offending

ANSWER: d

54. _____ crimes are associated with those living in poverty who engage in disproportionate amounts of rape and assault as a means of expressing their rage, frustration, and anger against society.
- a. Instrumental
 - b. Expressive
 - c. Double marginality
 - d. Strict-liability

ANSWER: b

55. Those unable to obtain desired goods and services through conventional means may consequently resort to theft and other illegal activities known as _____ crimes.
- a. instrumental
 - b. expressive
 - c. double marginality
 - d. strict-liability

ANSWER: a

56. Elderly males (over the age of 65) are primarily arrested more often for _____, while elderly females are arrested for _____.

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- a. murder, larceny
- b. alcohol-related crimes, larceny
- c. larceny, forgery
- d. alcohol-related crimes, embezzlement

ANSWER: b

57. For every one murder perpetrated by a female, how many murders are perpetrated by males?

- a. 3
- b. 7
- c. 11
- d. 15

ANSWER: b

58. The masculine hypothesis, which states that most female crime is committed by more masculine females who possess male traits, was developed by:

- a. Kareem Jordan.
- b. Edwin Sutherland.
- c. Cesare Lombroso.
- d. Albert Cohen.

ANSWER: c

59. The belief that lower rates of criminal offending by females can be explained by their second-class standing in society is explained by:

- a. the consensus hypothesis.
- b. conservative feminist theory.
- c. Marxist feminist theory.
- d. liberal feminist theory.

ANSWER: d

60. According to the ____ hypothesis, the criminality of females is masked because of the generally benevolent and protective attitude toward women in our society.

- a. masculinity
- b. chivalry
- c. feminist
- d. socialization

ANSWER: b

61. According to recent UCR data, which statement is most accurate?

- a. Teen crime has risen sharply, while adult crime has dropped slowly.
- b. Teen crime has dropped at a rate of over three to one as compared with adult crime.
- c. Teen crime has risen at a rate of nearly four to one as compared with adult crime.

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d. No clear difference is noticeable between teen and adult crime rates.

ANSWER: b

62. The belief that as the percentage of minorities increases in a population, so does the added attention and stress placed on this group by police presence, is known as:

- a. the Wendall Holmes theory.
- b. the racial threat hypothesis.
- c. the double marginality hypothesis.
- d. the minority profiling hypothesis.

ANSWER: b

63. Noncitizen adult men from Mexico, a group disproportionately likely to have entered the U.S. illegally, are _____ than U.S.-born adult men to be in a correctional setting

- a. more than four times less likely
- b. more than eight times less likely
- c. more than four times more likely
- d. more than eight times more likely

ANSWER: b

64. Wolfgang and colleagues' research depicted that a small percentage of the population was responsible for a large percentage of crime. These individuals are known as:

- a. chronic offenders.
- b. criminal typology offenders.
- c. the delinquent subculture.
- d. nonutilitarian offenders.

ANSWER: a

65. According to the Wolfgang et al study, chronic offenders account for a large amount crime but make up only _____ percentage of the population.

- a. 3
- b. 6
- c. 10
- d. 15

ANSWER: b

66. The idea that those who offend early in life and commit more serious crimes in adolescence will continue to offend as adults is known as:

- a. gender theory.
- b. the masculinity hypothesis.
- c. the chivalry hypothesis.
- d. persistence.

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ANSWER: d

67. This view holds that the best predictor of future criminality is past criminality.

- a. continuity of crime
- b. delinquent subculture theory
- c. racial threat hypothesis
- d. early childhood assumption

ANSWER: a

68. A policy in which offenders convicted of three felony offenses receive a mandatory life sentence is known as:

- a. The repeat offender law
- b. Megan's law
- c. the felony persistence law
- d. The three-strikes law

ANSWER: d

69. Which characteristics are used to predict chronic offending?

- a. school-attendance problems
- b. patterns of running away from home
- c. childhood sexual abuse
- d. all of the above

ANSWER: d

70. One of the most important findings of the cohort studies discussed in the text is that:

- a. people with a history of violence and mental disease are less likely to kill when they use a knife or other weapon.
- b. adult offending and juvenile offending are not correlated.
- c. persistent juvenile offending is correlated with poor education and less job satisfaction as an adult.
- d. persistent juvenile offenders are most likely to continue their criminal careers as adults.

ANSWER: d

True / False

71. Part I index crimes consist of eight crimes, four of which are personal crimes and four of which are property crimes.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

72. The Uniform Crime Report is an annual survey of crime victims.

- a. True
- b. False

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ANSWER: False

73. When criminal complaints are found through investigation to be unfounded, they are eliminated from the actual count in the Uniform Crime Report.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

74. The Bureau of Justice Statistics compiles the Uniform Crime Report.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

75. MTF data indicate that the number of people who break the law is far lower than the number projected by official statistics.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

76. Minor traffic crimes are the primary data collected in Part II index crimes. This data determines the grant money and safer-streets funding allocated for cities.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

77. One way in which crimes are cleared is through arrest.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

78. Generally, girls are more willing to self-report drug use than boys, with the exception of Latina girls.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

79. True experiments, using all of the elements of the scientific method, are very common in criminology.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

80. Survey data derived from all age, race, gender, and income characteristics measured simultaneously is referred to as a cross-sectional study.

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- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

81. The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) began in 1973 and is one of the most comprehensive methods of data collection on victimization in the United States.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

82. Most self-report studies tend to focus on juvenile offending.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

83. Cohort research involves studying a group of people who share common characteristics over a period of time.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

84. A retroactive cohort study uses an intact cohort of known offenders and looks back at their early offending and other characteristics, such as education and income status.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

85. Self-report data appear to be more stable than the UCR and NCVS indicate.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

86. Data mining has been used to aid police departments allocate resources to combat crime based on offense patterns, and has led to predictive policing.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

87. Crime maps are used to create graphic representations of the spatial geography of crime.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

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88. There has been a significant decline in U.S. crime rates, which are now below those of other industrial nations.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

89. Human trafficking impacts virtually every country in every region of the world.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

90. Globalization and the outsourcing of manufacturing jobs may increase the crime rate in the future, according to the text.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

91. Burglaries occur most often in September, especially in college towns, because of the influx of new residents.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

92. About 80 percent of all murders and 70 percent of all robberies involve the use of firearms.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

93. Neighborhoods experiencing income inequality and resource deprivation have crime rates significantly higher than neighborhoods with greater wealth.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

94. Scholars have a clear understanding regarding the relationship between the economy and crime rates.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

95. Deviance in adolescence is fueled by a need for money and sex and is reinforced by close peer relationships.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

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96. The idea that females are treated more leniently than males by the criminal justice system is referred to as the "cheater theory."

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

97. Most teens who commit crime discontinue their criminal ways by adulthood.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

98. The liberal feminist view focuses on women's role as second-class citizens based on economic and social positions.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

99. The racial threat hypothesis states that as minorities increase in a population, they become more of a threat to society based on numbers and past criminal patterns.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

100. While boys and girls offend at drastically different rates, psychologists have found no measurable differences in their verbal abilities or visual-spatial abilities.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

101. One area of examination regarding race is the dissolution of family and low employment rates of minorities, and their relationship to crime.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

102. U.S.-born adult men are incarcerated in state prisons at rates up to 3.3 times higher than are foreign-born men in the U.S.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

103. Wolfgang and colleagues found that chronic offenders consist of about 36 percent of the population, but account for 92 percent of the offending.

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- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

104. A person who continually violates the law and shapes his or her life around the concept of criminality is referred to as a "passive-life criminal."

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

105. Kids who have been exposed to a variety of personal and social problems at an early age are most at risk to repeat offending later in life.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

106. A risk factor for future criminal offending is poor attendance in school.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

107. Mandatory sentencing and three-strikes legislation are two ways in which states combat the problem of chronic offenders.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

Essay

108. Describe how the UCR is compiled and the validity concerns associated with this method of measuring crime.

ANSWER: The FBI collects arrest data from police departments in the United States and publishes crime rates each year. The UCR contains information on Part I and Part II crimes. The UCR also collects data on the number and characteristics of individuals who have been arrested for committing a crime. The UCR contains validity problems because of reporting issues such as police error and victims' failure to report crimes. Additional issues exist because not all police departments submit reports; only the most serious crime is counted; each act is listed as a single offense; and no federal crimes are reported.

109. Describe how the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is compiled and the validity concerns associated with this method of measuring crime.

ANSWER: The NCVS is a nationwide survey of victimization in the United States compiled by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The NCVS contains a nationally representative sample of 38,000 households and interviews approximately 136,000 individuals over the age of 12 each year. These surveys include information about the age, race, sex, ethnicity, marital status, income, and education levels of victims and offenders. Concerns over the validity of NCVS include overreporting by victims, underreporting by victims, the inability to record the

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personal criminal activity of those surveyed, sampling errors, and inadequate question format.

110. What is self-report data? Discuss the use and accuracy of self-report data.

ANSWER: Self-reported data are designed to measure criminal activity directly by asking people to report and describe their participation in criminal activity. Self-report surveys are typically anonymous or confidential, so individuals feel more comfortable reporting their criminal involvement. These surveys are most often conducted with juveniles. These surveys typically include additional questions regarding peoples' attitudes, beliefs, values, and behaviors. Self-report surveys are especially useful for victimless crimes and crimes that are often not detected or reported. Critics of these surveys argue that people will not be truthful when reporting criminal behavior. Also, those who are the most criminal are often not included in samples.

111. What is the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)? How is it different from the UCR?

ANSWER: The NIBRS is a program that collects data on each reported crime incident. For the system, police departments provide an account of each incident and arrest. This includes information about the victim and offender. Data are collected for 46 offenses plus 11 lesser offenses. The data also provide a link between arrests and clearances, include all of the offenses that were committed, and distinguish between attempted and completed crimes.

112. Discuss what is meant by the phrase "the ecology of crime." Explain how crime rates are impacted by each ecology factor.

ANSWER: Ecology of crime suggests that there is a link between the crime rate and three ecological factors: day, season, and climate. Most reported crimes occur during warm summer months in July and August. Crime rates also are higher on the first day of the month, when people typically have more money. Temperature may also have an impact on violent crime, with crime rates increasing until the weather reaches about 85 degrees. Large urban areas also have higher rates of crime than do rural areas.

113. Discuss the relationship between crime and social class and the economy. Explain each of the views associated with this relationship.

ANSWER: Research shows that aggregate crime rates and aggregate unemployment rates are not strongly related. Sometimes the crime rates rise during periods of economic prosperity and sometimes they decline. There are four views on this relationship. The first view argues that when the economy is bad, crime rates will be higher. The second suggests that a good economy will result in higher crime rates. Third is the view that a bad economy will lower the crime rate. The last view suggests that the crime rate and the economy are not related.

114. Explain what is meant by the aging-out process.

ANSWER: Research finds that as criminals get older, their criminal involvement decreases regardless of the economic status, marital status, race, or sex of the offender. It is evident that younger people commit more crimes and commit crime more often than do older people. This is a relationship that has remained stable across time.

115. What is the relationship between race and crime? How is this relationship explained?

ANSWER: Official crime data indicate that minority group members are involved in a disproportionate share of criminal activity. African Americans make up 12 percent of the population, but 40 percent of violent Part 1 offenses and 30 percent of property crime arrests. One explanation for this relationship is an unequal or biased treatment in the criminal justice system. A second explanation is that this relationship is due to cultural bias. A third explanation argues that racial differences are due to disparity in the social and economic structure of society.

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116. A popular political debate each year, especially around elections, is immigration in the United States. While many point to immigrants as a main cause of crime in the United States, what does research show about this phenomenon?

ANSWER: Despite laws passed in states like Arizona aimed at fighting immigrant crime, research has supported that the correlation among natural-born U.S. citizens and crime is a more significant cause of crime. U.S.-born citizens are over 3 times more likely to be arrested and nearly ten times more likely to populate country jails and prisons in states with significant illegal immigrant status.

117. Explain Wolfgang et al's research on chronic offending. What are some implications of this research?

ANSWER: Wolfgang, Figlio, and Sellin conducted a study in 1972 in which they used official records to follow the criminal careers of a cohort of 9,945 boys born in Philadelphia in 1945. They found that one-third of the boys had contact with the police. When severity of offenses was examined, they found that 54 percent of the samples' delinquent youths were repeat offenders. Furthermore, they found that 6 percent of those youths were chronic offenders and committed 71 percent of the homicides, 73 percent of the rapes, 82 percent of the robberies, and 69 percent of the aggravated assaults. In 1958, Wolfgang et al. conducted a similar study and found the same conclusions. This time, however, they included females and found that only 1 percent of females in the survey were chronic offenders. This research suggests that by targeting a few chronic offenders, large reductions in the crime rate can be achieved.

118. What impact and influence has the discovery of the chronic offender had on the field of criminology?

ANSWER: The discovery of chronic offenders has led to a greater focus of criminological theory on explaining the difference between chronic offenders and occasional offenders. It has also questioned the importance of social conditions, as most individuals living in these conditions do not become chronic offenders. This has forced criminologists to consider such issues as persistence and desistance in their explanations of crime. This discovery has also led to stricter sentencing policies such as three-strikes laws.

119. Explain what is meant by early-onset offending, and discuss potential causes of chronicity.

ANSWER: Early onset deals with the idea that the earlier an individual begins committing criminal behavior, such as age five or six, the more likely it is that the individual will continue delinquent and criminal ways as he or she ages. There are numerous causes for later criminal activity, including poor school performance and attendance, delinquent peer association, victimization as a child either through neglect or abuse, and many others.

120. Discuss the gender differences in the crime rate, and how this has been explained.

ANSWER: Male crime rates are much higher than those of females. The assailant is male in more than 80 percent of all violent personal crimes. The masculinity hypothesis is the view that women who commit crimes have biological and psychological traits similar to those of men. The chivalry hypothesis is the idea that low female crime rates are a reflection of the leniency with which police treat female offenders.