Chapter 2: The Nature and Extent of Delinquency

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Compiled by the __________, the UCR is the most widely used source of national crime and delinquency statistics.
   a. U.S. Census Bureau          c. Federal Bureau of Investigation
   b. Bureau of Justice Statistics d. Bureau of Justice Affairs
   
   ANS: C  REF: 33  OBJ: 2-1

2. Which of the following is a Part I offense?
   a. arson                      c. possession of cocaine
   b. weapons possession         d. gang membership
   
   ANS: A  REF: 33  OBJ: 2-1

3. Which of the following is a Part II offense?
   a. robbery                    c. vandalism
   b. forcible rape              d. aggravated assault
   
   ANS: C  REF: 33  OBJ: 2-1

4. When at least one person is arrested, charged, or turned over to the court for prosecution, a crime has been:
   a. “solved”                    c. “indexed”
   b. “recorded”                  d. “cleared”
   
   ANS: D  REF: 33  OBJ: 2-1

5. The UCR uses three methods to express crime data. Which of the following is not one of these three methods?
   a. The actual number of crimes reported to the police and arrests made.
   b. The actual number of crimes for which the suspects were convicted.
   c. The FBI computes crime rates per 100,000 people.
   d. The FBI computes changes in the number and rate of crime over time.
   
   ANS: B  REF: 33-34  OBJ: 2-1

6. What does a UCR-reported murder rate of 4.8 mean?
   a. About five people were murdered.
   b. About five people in every 100,000 were murdered.
   c. About five people a day were murdered.
   d. About five people were arrested for murder per 10,000 arrests.
   
   ANS: B  REF: 34  OBJ: 2-1
7. The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) collects victimization data on individuals age _____ and older.
   a. 10  c. 18
   b. 12  d. 21
   ANS: B  REF: 35  OBJ: 2-1

8. Which of the following statements about the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is false?
   a. the survey provides information about victims, offenders and crimes
   b. the NCVS collects information on crimes suffered by individuals and households
   c. the problem of underreporting of crime is completely eliminated when we use the NCVS
   d. none of the above statements are false
   ANS: C  REF: 35-36  OBJ: 2-1

9. ____________ are questionnaire or survey techniques that ask subjects to reveal their own participation in delinquent or criminal acts.
   a. Victim surveys  c. Self reports
   b. Official records  d. Uniform Crime Reports
   ANS: C  REF: 36  OBJ: 2-1

10. In addition to the primary sources of crime data, several other methods are routinely used to acquire data. Which of the following is not among the alternative measures of delinquent behavior?
    a. Cohort research
    b. Meta-analysis
    c. Local self-reports
    d. Controlled experiments
    ANS: C  REF: 36  OBJ: 2-1

11. In 2010, juveniles were responsible for about ___ percent of the property crime arrests.
    a. 9  c. 23
    b. 18  d. 34
    ANS: C  REF: 39  OBJ: 2-1

12. About ____________ juvenile arrests were made in 2010 for Part II offenses.
    a. 125,000  c. 930,000
    b. 450,000  d. 1.2 million
    ANS: C  REF: 40  OBJ: 2-1
13. In 2008, juveniles were responsible for about ____ percent of all arrests for violent crimes.
   a. 14          c. 33
   b. 24          d. 47

ANS: A    REF: 40    OBJ: 2-1

14. According to the text, which of the following statements is true?
   a. Surveys suggest that the availability of firearms does not influence the delinquency rate.
   b. Surveys suggest that boys who are members of gangs are far less likely to possess guns than non-gang members.
   c. Surveys indicate that there are over 3 million gang members in the United States.
   d. None of the above statements are true

ANS: D    REF: 43    OBJ: 2-2

15. A great deal of juvenile delinquency is unknown to the police; these unrecorded delinquent acts are referred to as ______________________________.
   a. self-report data
   b. observational records
   c. dark figures of crime
   d. diversion cases

ANS: C    REF: 40    OBJ: 2-1

16. The annual national self-report survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders conducted by the Institute for Social Research (ISR) is called ________________________________.
   a. National Crime Victimization Survey
   b. Monitoring the Future
   c. National Survey on Drug Use and Health
   d. Safe Schools/Healthy Students

ANS: B    REF: 37    OBJ: 2-1

17. Among the factors that influence delinquency rate trends, which is false?
   a. The general crime rate follows the proportion of young males in the population.
   b. As the number of gun-carrying (toting seems too informal) students increases, so does the seriousness of violent delinquency.
   c. As the level of social problems increases, such as unwed mothers and racial conflict, so do delinquency rates.
   d. There is strong association between delinquency rates and the immigrant population.

ANS: D    REF: 42    OBJ: 2-2
18. Economist Steven Levitt believes that ___________________ may help control delinquency.
   a. stricter adoption policies  
   b. punitive policies  
   c. psychotherapy  
   d. religious involvement

   ANS: B  
   REF: 44  
   OBJ: 2-2

19. With regard to the relationship of the time and place of delinquency, which statement is false?
   a. Most delinquent acts occur during the warm summer months of July and August.
   b. Large urban areas have by far the highest juvenile violence rates.
   c. The frequency of some violent acts such as sexual assault increases as the temperature increases.
   d. The western and southern states have had consistently higher delinquency rates.

   ANS: C  
   REF: 44  
   OBJ: 2-2

20. For which of the following acts are females more likely than males to be taken into custody?
   a. robbery  
   b. forcible rape  
   c. truancy  
   d. running away

   ANS: D  
   REF: 44  
   OBJ: 2-3

21. Males commit _____ property offenses for every one committed by females.
   a. two  
   b. four  
   c. six  
   d. ten

   ANS: A  
   REF: 44  
   OBJ: 2-3

22. Males commit _____ serious violent offenses for every 1 committed by females.
   a. 2  
   b. 4  
   c. 6  
   d. 10

   ANS: B  
   REF: 44  
   OBJ: 2-3

23. In terms of race and delinquency, the official statistics show that:
   a. White juveniles composed about 30 percent of all juveniles arrested in 2008.
   b. There is virtually no racial discrimination in the juvenile justice system.
   c. African American youths are less likely to be formally arrested by the police, who treat them as first-time offenders.
   d. Minority youths are arrested for serious criminal behavior at a rate that is disproportionate to their representation in the population.

   ANS: D  
   REF: 45  
   OBJ: 2-3

24. Which of the following is one of the major criticisms of official crime data?
   a. It fails to control for socio-economic factors that contribute to criminality.
   b. It underrepresents the effect of violent delinquent crime.
   c. It is biased by police behavior and arrest practices.
   d. It negates the impact of chronic delinquent crime.

   ANS: C  
   REF: 46  
   OBJ: 2-3
25. What factor compounds economic marginalization to explain high rates of African-American delinquency?
   a. racially biased policing  
   b. population density  
   c. public health problems  
   d. weakening family structure

   ANS: D  REF: 46  OBJ: 2-3

26. Which of the following privileges would not result in greater equality for minority children?
   a. legal  
   b. educational  
   c. economic  
   d. social

   ANS: A  REF: 47  OBJ: 2-3

27. ______________ are responsible for the majority of serious delinquent acts.
   a. Lower-class youth  
   b. Middle-class youth  
   c. Upper-class, rebellious youth  
   d. Social class is irrelevant to delinquency.

   ANS: A  REF: 47  OBJ: 2-3

28. Which of the following statements about age and delinquency is false?
   a. With maturity comes the ability to resist the “quick fix” to one’s problems.  
   b. Life experience helps former delinquents seek out nondestructive solutions to their personal problems.  
   c. As youths grow older, they take on new responsibilities that are inconsistent with criminality.  
   d. As juvenile delinquents mature, they become less aware of the risks that accompany crime.

   ANS: D  REF: 49  OBJ: 2-3

29. __________ is the age at which youths begin their delinquent careers.
   a. Desistance  
   b. Age of onset  
   c. Bias age  
   d. Chronicity

   ANS: B  REF: 49  OBJ: 2-3

30. The aging-out process of criminal behavior is also referred to as:
   a. persistent criminality  
   b. spontaneous remission  
   c. desistance remission  
   d. criminal desistance

   ANS: B  REF: 49  OBJ: 2-3

31. Early and repeated delinquency is the best predictor of:
   a. adult criminality  
   b. problem behavior syndrome  
   c. desistence  
   d. crime pathways

   ANS: A  REF: 51  OBJ: 2-4
32. The idea that chronic juvenile offenders are likely to continue violating the law as adults is called what?
   a. Persistence  c. Problem behavior syndrome
   b. Continuity of crime  d. Chronicity

ANS: B  REF: 51  OBJ: 2-4

33. Chronic recidivists made up about _____ percent of both Philadelphia cohorts in research conducted by Wolfgang and his associates.
   a. 1  c. 6
   b. 3  d. 18

ANS: C  REF: 51  OBJ: 2-4

34. Wolfgang reported that the __________________ were responsible for 52 percent of all offenses.
   a. adolescent-limiteds  c. peripheral gang members
   b. chronic six percent  d. late bloomers

ANS: B  REF: 51  OBJ: 2-4

35. In the Pennsylvania birth cohort follow-up, it was found that chronic offenders had a(n)_____ percent chance of becoming adult offenders.
   a. 30  c. 100
   b. 40  d. 80

ANS: D  REF: 51  OBJ: 2-4

36. Which of the following statements is true?
   a. Kids who engage in the most serious forms of delinquency are more likely to be members of the lower class
   b. Chronic offenders commit a significant portion of all delinquent acts
   c. Those who demonstrate antisocial tendencies at a very early age are more likely to commit more crimes for a longer duration
   d. All of the above are true

ANS: D  REF: 51  OBJ: 2-4

37. According to the text, which of the following is not a childhood risk factor for persistent delinquency?
   a. parental psychopathology  c. small family size
   b. low intelligence  d. neighborhood disadvantage

ANS: C  REF: 52  OBJ: 2-4

38. Childhood risk factors for persistent delinquency include all of the following, except:
   a. poor cognitive development  c. poor academic performance
   b. family violence  d. interracial background

ANS: D  REF: 52  OBJ: 2-4
39. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey:
   a. Females are more often the victims of delinquency than males.
   b. Older people are more often targets than younger people.
   c. Crime victimization tends to be interracial.
   d. The chance of victimization declines with age.

   ANSWER: D  REF: 53  OBJ: 2-5

40. Which of the following statements about the victimization of teens is true?
   a. Most teens are victimized by strangers.
   b. Most teens are victimized at night.
   c. Most teens are victimized by their peers.
   d. Most teens are victimized by their parents.

   ANSWER: C  REF: 53  OBJ: 2-5

CRITICAL THINKING

Case 2.1
A national newspaper reported on the juvenile crime statistics across the United States. The data, based on police records, demonstrated a decline in juvenile crime. In rebuttal, a renowned criminologist released his findings from a national victimization survey that shows an increase in juvenile crime occurred in the past year. In clarifying the differences in the findings, one may wish to point out issues between the two measures.

41. Which of the following statements about official arrest data is false?
   a. Victim surveys show that less than half of all victims report the crime to police.
   b. The arrest data count only adolescents who have been caught.
   c. Arrest decision criteria are similar among police agencies.
   d. Victimless crimes, such as drug and alcohol use, are significantly undercounted using this measure.

   ANSWER: C  REF: 34  OBJ: 2-1

42. While victimization surveys may capture crimes victims did not report to the police, such surveys are still not without issues. Among those issues include:
   a. The misinterpretation of events that result in overreporting of crimes.
   b. Embarrassment and fear that prevent victims from reporting a crime.
   c. Juveniles not comprehending questions.
   d. All of the above.

   ANSWER: D  REF: 36  OBJ: 2-1
Case 2.2
Robert is a 13-year old African American male living in a deteriorated neighborhood that lacks the economic and educational resources needed to succeed. He was arrested for physically assaulting another adolescent. Due to a previous record, Robert was charged and detained until trial, where ultimately, he was sentenced to 6 months in a juvenile detention facility. James is a white 13-year old male from a middle-class family, who was involved in a physical altercation. He was diverted from the formal juvenile justice system, given 50 hours of community service, and released to his parents.

43. Which statement is false when attempting to explain this disproportionate minority group involvement in serious crime and contact with the juvenile justice system?
   a. African American youth who develop a police record are more likely to be severely punished if they are picked up again and sent back to juvenile court.
   b. Juvenile court judges may see the offenses committed by African American youths as more serious than those committed by White offenders.
   c. White juveniles are less likely to receive lenient sentences and thus get an official record.
   d. Institutional racism impacts the decision-making process found in the juvenile justice system.
   
   ANS: C    REF: 46    OBJ: 2-3

44. Given Robert and James’ backgrounds, what is the connection between their social class and delinquency?
   a. Poverty causes delinquency.
   b. Middle-class youth are responsible for the majority of serious delinquent acts.
   c. Serious crime is more prevalent in socially disorganized lower-class areas.
   d. Social class has no impact on delinquency.
   
   ANS: C    REF: 47    OBJ: 2-3

45. As Robert and James mature, what can be expected?
   a. Regardless of their race, sex, or social class, they will commit less crime as they age.
   b. Due to his one prior arrest, Robert will be a chronic offender.
   c. James will co-offend with peers more.
   d. Both James and Robert will continue to commit more crimes due to their early start at a very young age.
   
   ANS: A    REF: 49    OBJ: 2-3

Case 2.3
Clare is a 14-year old female who lives with her 29-year old mother and three younger siblings in a two-bedroom apartment in a housing project. At school, Clare has acted out in class and has been held back a grade-level twice. Clare has been arrested for truancy, running away, and alcohol and drug use.
46. Which of the following risk factors for persistent delinquency is not present in the scenario provided?
   a. Family violence
   b. Poor academic performance
   c. Family structure and large size
   d. Neighborhood disadvantage

   ANS: A   REF: 52   OBJ: 2-4

47. While the vast majority of delinquency is committed by males, which one of Clare’s offenses is most common for girls?
   a. Truancy
   b. Running away
   c. Alcohol use
   d. Disorderly conduct

   ANS: B   REF: 44   OBJ: 2-3

48. What percent of physically assaulted or abused adolescents reported lifetime substance abuse or dependence?
   a. 6%
   b. 17%
   c. 25%
   d. 46%

   ANS: C   REF: 55   OBJ: 2-5

Case 2.4
Tim is a white, 17-year old, National Honor Society student who was physically assaulted in the hallway between classes by John, a white, 16-year old, high school football player because of an alleged personal insult. Both students have mutual friends and attended social events as friends in the past.

49. Which of the following is false with regard to this case of juvenile victimization?
   a. Teens tend to be victimized by their peers.
   b. Victimization is interracial.
   c. Many teenage victimizations occur at school.
   d. Students involved in academic extracurricular activities are more likely to be selected as suitable targets for violent victimization.

   ANS: B   REF: 53   OBJ: 2-5

50. In comparison to his grandparents, Tim’s likelihood of being a victim of a crime is:
   a. 5 times less likely than his grandparents
   b. as likely as his grandparents
   c. 10 times more likely than his grandparents
   d. None of the above

   ANS: C   REF: 53   OBJ: 2-5
TRUE/FALSE

1. Manslaughter and forcible rape are examples of part II offenses.
   ANS: F       REF: 33       OBJ: 2-1

2. Liquor law violations and drug trafficking are examples of part II offenses.
   ANS: T       REF: 33       OBJ: 2-1

3. Because many victims do not report their experiences to the police, the UCR has been adjusted to address the issue of non-reporting of crime.
   ANS: F       REF: 31       OBJ: 2-1

4. The crime patterns and trends that the UCR, NCVS, and self report surveys record are often quite similar.
   ANS: T       REF: 38       OBJ: 2-2

5. In 2010, juveniles accounted for 1% of all arrests for part I offenses.
   ANS: F       REF: 39       OBJ: 2-2

6. According to the text, during the last decade, the teen murder rate decreased by approximately 20 percent.
   ANS: T       REF: 40       OBJ: 2-2

7. Most self-report studies indicate that the number of children who break the law is far less than official statistics would lead us to believe.
   ANS: F       REF: 40       OBJ: 2-1

8. According to the text, girls are more likely than boys to be arrested as runaways.
   ANS: T       REF: 44       OBJ: 2-2

9. About 70 percent of all arrests in 2010 involved white Americans.
   ANS: T       REF: 45       OBJ: 2-2

10. According to the text, kids who engage in the most serious forms of delinquency are more likely to be members of the upper class.
    ANS: F       REF: 43       OBJ: 2-3
11. Delinquency rates decline with age.
   ANS: T  REF: 48  OBJ: 2-3

12. In Wolfgang's *Delinquency in a Birth Cohort*, six percent of the total sample was responsible for fifty-two percent of all offenses.
   ANS: T  REF: 50  OBJ: 2-4

13. Wolfgang's cohort findings, the chronic six percent, could not be replicated in subsequent research.
   ANS: F  REF: 50  OBJ: 2-4

14. Researchers have found that the severity of offending rather than frequency of criminal behavior had the greatest impact on later adult criminality.
   ANS: T  REF: 52  OBJ: 2-4

15. Official arrest statistics indicate that European American youths are arrested for a disproportionate share of arson and alcohol-related violations.
   ANS: T  REF: 50  OBJ: 2-7

16. Teens are less likely than their grandparents to become the victims of crimes.
   ANS: F  REF: 53  OBJ: 2-5

17. The NCVS is a household survey of offenders that measures the nature of the crime and the characteristics of the offenders.
   ANS: F  REF: 35  OBJ: 2-1

18. Less than half of all violent crime victimizations are reported to the police.
   ANS: T  REF: 34  OBJ: 2-1

19. Crime victimization tends to be interracial.
   ANS: F  REF: 52  OBJ: 2-5

20. Delinquents are disproportionately male, although female delinquency rates are rising faster than those for males.
   ANS: T  REF: 44  OBJ: 2-3

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COMPLETION

1. Compiled by the FBI, the ________________ is the most widely used source of national crime and delinquency statistics reporting crimes known to the police and the number of persons arrested.

ANS: Uniform Crime Report

REF: 33 OBJ: 2-1

2. Part I offenses include homicide and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, ________________, and aggravated assault.

ANS: robbery

REF: 33 OBJ: 2-1

3. Part I property-related crimes includes burglary, ____________, arson, and motor vehicle theft.

ANS: larceny

REF: 33 OBJ: 2-1

4. A crime is said to have been “______________” by exceptional means, when some element beyond police control precludes the physical arrest of an offender.

ANS: cleared

REF: 33 OBJ: 2-1

5. Because the UCR arrest statistics are ______________ by suspect’s age, they can be used to estimate adolescent delinquency.

ANS: disaggregated

REF: 34 OBJ: 2-1

6. ________________ studies are designed to obtain information from youthful subjects about their violations of the law.

ANS: Self-report

REF: 36 OBJ: 2-1
7. Researchers at the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research conducted an annual national self-report survey, called ________________, that involved a sample of about three thousand youths.

ANS: Monitoring the Future

REF: 37 OBJ: 2-1

8. Self-report studies are a valuable source of information on the activities of youths who have had contact with the juvenile justice system as well as on the ________________ of crime – that is, those who have escaped official notice.

ANS: dark figure

REF: 40 OBJ: 2-1

9. Police routinely search, question, and detain all African American males in an area if a violent criminal has been described as “looking or sounding Black.” This phenomenon is called ________________.

ANS: racial profiling

REF: 46 OBJ: 2-7

10. ________________ theory suggests that as the size of the African American population increases, the amount of social control imposed against African American by police grows proportionately.

ANS: Racial threat

REF: 46 OBJ: 2-7

11. The ________________ refers to the age at which youths begin their delinquent careers.

ANS: age of onset

REF: 49 OBJ: 2-3

12. The aging-out process is sometimes called desistance from crime or ________________.

ANS: spontaneous remission

REF: 49 OBJ: 2-3
13. Those who demonstrate antisocial tendencies at a very early age are more likely to commit more crimes for a longer period of time. This is referred to as the ____________________________.

ANS: developmental view of delinquency

REF: 49 OBJ: 2-3

14. The concept of the chronic career offender is most closely associated with the research efforts of ________________________.

ANS: Marvin Wolfgang

REF: 50 OBJ: 2-4

15. ____________________ refers to chronic offenders who have been arrested five times or more before age eighteen.

ANS: Chronic recidivists

REF: 50 OBJ: 2-4

16. In Wolfgang’s birth cohort study, the ____________________ was responsible for 52 percent of all offenses.

ANS: chronic six percent

REF: 50 OBJ: 2-4

17. The idea that chronic juvenile offenders are likely to continue violating the law as adults is referred to as the ________________________.

ANS: continuity of crime

REF: 51 OBJ: 2-4

18. The _________________ rate refers to the number of people who are victims of criminal acts.

ANS: victimization

REF: 53 OBJ: 2-5

19. NCVS data indicate that people in almost all age groups who were victimized by groups of offenders identified their attackers as _________________.

ANS: teenagers

REF: 53 OBJ: 2-5
20. Most teens are victimized by people with whom they are ________________.

ANS: acquainted/acquaintances

REF: 53 OBJ: 2-5

ESSAY

1. Identify and define the two categories of offenses compiled by the FBI in the Uniform Crime Report. Provide examples of each.

ANS:

**Part I offenses**
Offenses including homicide and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, arson, and motor vehicle theft. Recorded by local law enforcement officers, these crimes are tallied quarterly and sent to the FBI for inclusion in the UCR.

**Part II offenses**
All crimes other than Part I offenses. Recorded by local law enforcement officers, arrests for these crimes are tallied quarterly and sent to the FBI for inclusion in the UCR, and include vandalism, liquor law violations, and drug trafficking.

REF: 33 OBJ: 2-1

2. Describe the three methods used by the UCR to express crime data. Give examples of each.

ANS:
The UCR uses three methods to express crime data. First, the number of crimes reported to the police and arrests made are expressed as raw figures (for example, in 2010, 14,748 murders occurred). Second, crime rates per 100,000 people are computed. In other words, when the UCR indicates that the murder rate was about 4.8 in 2010, it means that almost 5 people in every 100,000 were murdered between January 1 and December 31, 2010.

This is the equation used:
<EQ>Number of Reported Crimes × 100,000 = Rate per 100,000 Total U.S. Population

Third, the FBI computes changes in the number and rate of crimes over time. Even though almost 15,000 murders in a year seems like a lot, the number and rate of murder has declined significantly over the past 20 years: in 1991, there were almost 25,000 murders recorded, a rate of 9.8 per 100,000 citizens.

REF: 33-34 OBJ: 2-1
3. Compare and contrast the UCR and NCVS. In your answer provide the purpose of each measure and validity issues with both measures.

ANS:

Uniform Crime Report (UCR)
Compiled by the FBI, the UCR compiles information gathered by police departments on the number of criminal acts reported by citizens and the number of persons arrested and is the most widely used source of national crime and delinquency statistics.

Weaknesses:
• Data are derived entirely from police records, we can assume that a significant number of crimes are not accounted
• Concerns that police departments make systematic errors in recording crime data or manipulate the data in order to give the public the impression that they are highly effective crime fighters
• Victim surveys show that less than half of all victims report the crime to police.
• The arrest data count only adolescents who have been caught, and these youths may be different from those who evade capture.
• Victimless crimes, such as drug and alcohol use, are significantly undercounted using this measure.
• Arrest decision criteria vary among police agencies.

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is a comprehensive, nationwide survey of victimization in the United States conducted annually by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

The greatest advantage of the NCVS over official data sources such as the UCR is that it can estimate the total amount of annual crimes, not just those that are reported to police. In addition, the NCVS helps us understand why crimes are not reported to police and whether the type and nature of the criminal event influences whether the police will ever know it occurred.

Weaknesses:
• Overreporting due to victims’ misinterpretation of events. A lost wallet may be reported as stolen or an open door may be viewed as a burglary attempt.
• Underreporting due to the embarrassment of reporting crime to interviewers, fear of getting in trouble, or simply forgetting an incident.
• Inability to record the personal criminal activity of those interviewed, such as drug use or gambling; murder is also not included, for obvious reasons.
• Sampling errors, which produce a group of respondents who do not represent the nation as a whole.
• Inadequate question format that invalidates responses. Some groups, such as adolescents, may be particularly susceptible to error because of question format

REF: 33; 35  OBJ: 2-1
4. List and discuss five (5) factors that influence teen crime trends discussed in the text.

ANS:
Crime experts have identified a variety of social, economic, personal, and demographic factors that influence delinquency rate trends, and some of the most important influences: population make-up, economy and jobs, social problems, abortion, immigration, guns, gangs, drug use, media, and juvenile justice policies.

REF: 34-39 OBJ: 2-2

5. Briefly discuss how the following correlates impact delinquency: gender, social class and age.

ANS:

Gender
With a few exceptions, males are significantly more delinquent than females. The teenage gender ratio for serious violent crime is approximately four to one, and for property crime approximately two to one, male to female. The only exception to this pattern is arrests for being a runaway; girls are more likely than boys to be arrested as runaways. Today, there are more similarities than differences between male and female offenders, and the gender gap seems to be closing.

Social class
Middle-class kids may commit crime, but it is generally of the less serious nuisance variety, such as selling pot or committing vandalism, rather than serious felony offenses. It is lower-class youth who are responsible for the majority of serious delinquent acts. Lower class kids who live in socially disorganized areas believe that they can never compete socially or economically with adolescents being raised in more affluent areas. They may turn to criminal behavior for monetary gain and psychological satisfaction. In sum, poverty does not cause delinquency per se; many poor kids are not delinquent at all. However, poverty is linked to social problems—family disruption, poor educational opportunities, lack of resources—that are highly associated with youthful misbehaviors.

Age
It is generally believed that age is inversely related to criminality: as people age, the likelihood that they will commit crime declines (aging out process).

REF: 44-49 OBJ: 2-3

6. Racial minorities are disproportionately represented in the arrest statistics. Discuss the two views that attempt to explain this disparity.

ANS:

Racial Threat Theory
As the size of the African American population increases, the amount of social control imposed against African Americans by police grows proportionately. Police will then routinely search, question, and detain all African American males in an area if a violent criminal has been described as “looking or sounding black”; this is called racial profiling. African American youth who develop a police record are more likely to be severely punished if they are picked up again and sent back to juvenile court. Consequently, the racial discrimination that is present at the early stages of the justice system ensures that minorities receive greater punishments at its conclusion.
According to this view, then, the disproportionate number of minority youth who are arrested is less a function of their involvement in serious crime and more the result of the race-based decision making that is found in the juvenile justice system.

An alternative view is that although evidence of racial bias does exist in the justice system, there is enough correspondence between official and self-report data to conclude that racial differences in the crime rate are real. According to this view, racial differentials are tied to the social and economic disparity suffered by African American youths. Even during times of economic growth, lower-class African Americans are left out of the economic mainstream, causing a growing sense of frustration and failure. As a result of being shut out of educational and economic opportunities enjoyed by the rest of society, African American kids are vulnerable to the lure of illegitimate gain and criminality. Consequently, racial differences in the delinquency rate would evaporate if African American kids could enjoy the same social, economic, and educational privileges enjoyed by children of the white majority.

REF: 46 OBJ: 2-4

7. Identify and discuss four factors that affect chronic delinquency.

ANS:

**Individual Factors**
- Early antisocial behavior
- Emotional factors, such as high behavioral activation and low behavioral inhibition
- Poor cognitive development
- Low intelligence
- Hyperactivity

**School and Community Factors**
- Failure to bond to school
- Poor academic performance
- Low academic aspirations
- Living in a poor family
- Neighborhood disadvantage
- Disorganized neighborhoods
- Concentration of delinquent peer groups
- Access to weapons

**Family Factors**
- Parenting
- Maltreatment
- Family violence
- Divorce
- Parental psychopathology
- Familial antisocial behaviors
- Teenage parenthood
- Family structure
- Large family size

**Peer Factors**
8. Identify and briefly discuss the factors that characterize teen victimization.

ANS:
• The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) samples estimate the total number of criminal incidents, including those not reported to police.
• Males are more often the victims of delinquency than females.
• Younger people are more often targets than older people.
• African American rates of violent victimization are much higher than European American rates. Crime victimization tends to be intraracial.
• Self-report data show that a significant number of adolescents become crime victims. The NCVS may underreport juvenile victimization.

REF: 53-55 OBJ: 2-15