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**Crime in The American Society: Causes, Types and Government Solutions**

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
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## **Dedication**

This work stands as a testament to his unwavering support and boundless patience;

my husband has been my support.

With all my deepest gratitude

**AHLAM**

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I thank everyone who helped me complete this work .

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## **Abstract**

This research discusses crime in the American society. It aims to find out the different causes and types of crime in the United States of America. Furthermore, it explores the government solutions to prevent and reduce crime rates. This research opts for documentary research design within a qualitative approach to collect and analyse the content of available documents. It also employs historical research to give a brief history of the evolution of crime in America. In addition, it explains the government strategies to prevent crime. The findings show that crime remains a significant challenge in America and there are different types of it like hate crimes, violence crimes, and property crimes. Also, the causes are various and complicated ranging from educational, to economic, sociological, and religious. However, there has been a noticeable decrease in crime rates recently due to the American government's efforts in the field of criminology ; including Law Enforcement Strategies such as Community Policing and Intelligence-Led Policing , Legislation and Criminal Justice Reform , Crime Prevention Programs, and Education and awareness .

**Keywords:** American society , causes, crime, solutions, types .

## **List of Abbreviations and Acronyms**

<b>ACEs</b>	Adverse Childhood Experiences
<b>COPS</b>	Community Oriented Policing Services
<b>DPRA</b>	Drug Policy Reform Act
<b>PSMI</b>	People with Severe Mental Illness
<b>U. S.</b>	The United States

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# **General Introduction**

## **1. Background of the Study**

Crime is a complex and enduring problem that has been an inherent part of American society. The threat of criminal activity continues to impact the lives and livelihoods of residents in urban centres and suburban enclaves. Crime, often referred to as a persistent issue, is growing in communities across the nation. Analysing the crime scene in American society reveals a complex interaction between historical, socio-economic, cultural, and systemic factors (Cossyleon, 2019).

At the core of this problem are the vast disparities and inequities that permeate every aspect of the social and economic structure. Factors such as poverty, unemployment, lack of education, racial discrimination, and restricted access to resources play a significant role in making crime frequent and typical. Additionally, inherent problems within the criminal justice system, such as inequalities in law enforcement, punishment, and an inefficient reformation process, create further complications in effectively addressing crime (Cullen, 2000).

Despite these complexities, there remains a determined inclination among policymakers, law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and residents to tackle the pervasive issue of crime. Through combined efforts in prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation, significant strides have been made in reducing crime rates and improving safety for all Americans. Nevertheless, substantial challenges remain that require proper communication, innovation, and cooperation to ensure a safer and more equitable future.

## **2. Statement of the Problem**

Crime remains a major issue in American culture, affecting individuals, groups, and institutions. While some efforts can be made to discourage criminal behavior, such as increasing the likelihood of

apprehension and appropriate punishment, accurately calculating crime rates, determining the causes of crime, and formulating effective government responses remain difficult. This dissertation examines the complexity of criminal activity, explores its manifestations, determines its causes, and develops policy recommendations based on empirical evidence to foster a safer environment.

### **3. Research Questions**

The present study investigates the following:

- 1- What are the root causes that fuel criminal activities in the United States?
- 2- What types of criminal activity are most prevalent in the United States?
- 3- What concrete steps can the government take to reduce crime rates and improve public safety?

### **4. Aims of the Study**

This study aims to investigate the factors that lead to criminal behavior within American society and explore its types. The study delves into the possible solutions and measures taken by the government to protect people's lives and devise efficient ways to avoid or mitigate the causes of crime.

### **5. Significance of the Study**

This study is crucial in providing awareness of the causes of criminal behaviour and developing a holistic framework to address various types of criminal activity. It analyzes and suggests tangible policy recommendations. The findings of this research can help improve community safety and quality of life, as well as advance understanding within the field of criminology.

## **6. Research Methodology**

In order to better understand crime issues in America, causes, types, and solutions, the researcher opted for a qualitative research design. This type of research is based on collecting and classifying information through reading various documents such as books, journals, magazines, recordings, newspapers, reports, and diaries. It is a useful tool for understanding a phenomenon as it allows for obtaining deeper insights about the issue under investigation. The main characteristic of this research design is the collection and analysis of the content of existing documents to analyze data and provide logical results. The study also employs the historical research design. This method provides us with an opportunity to find insights about past events. The main advantage of historical research is that it allows the investigation of topics that could not otherwise be studied by examining past evidence.

## **7. Structure of the Study**

This dissertation consists of two chapters. The first chapter, titled “The Causes and Types of Crime in American Society,” discusses the long-standing and diverse phenomena of crime, influenced by historical, sociological, economic, and cultural factors. Theoretical frameworks provide valuable insights into understanding crime. Crime levels vary based on the type considered, including violent acts and property crimes. Reviewing crime statistics and prevalence rates reveals patterns and trends, highlighting inconsistencies in victimization rates and offender characteristics. Understanding the spatial distribution of criminal activities and identifying high-risk areas and individuals is crucial for efficient intervention strategies and resource allocation.

The second chapter, “Government Solutions,” examines public strategies and initiatives in law enforcement, criminal justice, prevention, and policy analysis. This approach provides valuable insights into effectively combating crime in American culture. Law enforcement programs, such as

community policing and intelligence-led policing, emphasize engaging with communities through data-driven measures aimed at preventing crime.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **Causes and Types of Crime in The American Society**

# Chapter One: Causes and Types of Crime in American Society

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## **Introduction**

Crime has always been a major concern in American society, affecting both public opinion and politics. The complexity of crime in the United States is examined in detail in this chapter. We begin with a brief historical review, illustrating changes in both crime rates and public opinion. Next, we study the main theoretical frameworks that criminologists use to identify the causes of criminal behavior. Then, to provide a basis for the analysis of crime statistics and prevalence rates, this chapter classifies several categories of crime that are common in America. This data will be used to identify high-risk populations and localities, pinpointing areas where targeted interventions may be most effective. This chapter aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of crime in American society by combining historical context, theoretical frameworks, and data analysis.

### **1.1 Historical Overview of Crime in American Society**

The evolution of crime in American society serves as evidence of interactions among political, social, and economic factors that have shaped the American legal system. Crime acted as a reflection of societal dynamics from the time of colonization.

Crime in America dates back to colonial times. During this time, when settlers struggled with difficult living circumstances and conflicts with native communities, criminality was frequently seen as a means of surviving. The frontier and the lack of legal authority are reflected in the frequency of crimes like theft, smuggling, and piracy. Severe penalties for violators include public humiliation, corporal punishment and exile. There were significant changes in the field of criminal justice after the Revolutionary War and the subsequent independence of the United States during the Revolutionary era, which lasted from 1770 to 1800. As Nash (2005) aptly noted, "The legal system was in disarray, with courts lacking legitimacy even to function " (p. 300).

The objective of the nascent republic was to construct a legal framework founded upon the principles of equality and justice; a framework that would later serve as a paradigm for contemporary criminal justice systems. Nonetheless, persistent challenges continued, including political corruption, organized crime, and social unrest, fueled by the burgeoning urbanization and widening economic disparities of the time. Notable events such as the Whiskey Rebellion and the emergence of criminal organizations brought into sharp focus the inherent conflicts between civil liberties and the imperative for robust police enforcement.

The Industrial Revolution impacted American society. It brought urbanization, population changes, and rapid industrial growth. These developments have not only flourished economic prosperity and scientific advancements but also gave rise to new forms of crime. "The economic benefits of the lumber trade encouraged the inhabitants to adjust to an unusually high incidence of fighting, brawling, gambling, drinking, and whoring " (Russo,2001,p. 202).Urban areas felled of criminal activity: gang violence, prostitution, and theft. They are exacerbated by overcrowded slums, poverty, and social inequality. Distinguishing between legal and illegal activities became challenging. Law enforcement faced difficulties in addressing the proliferation of street gangs and organized crime such as the Mafia.

During the Prohibition era, American criminal history was in its powerful period. Statewide bans on the manufacture, delivery, and sale of alcohol characterized this era. Consequently, organized crime experienced a significant surge, with criminal syndicates reaping immense profits from the bootlegging trade. Law enforcement authorities struggled to contain widespread violence, illicit activities, and corruption. Moreover, the period witnessed the rise of prominent criminal figures and the glorification of gangster culture in popular media. As Mappen (2013) stated, "The Prohibition generation witnessed an escalation in the level of crime nationwide." (p.5).

Gabbidon and Greene (2012) highlighted that the Vietnam War, the sexual revolution, and the civil rights movement, which characterised the post-war era, witnessed an increase in drug usage, white-collar crime, and civic instability. To counteract the severe law enforcement, stricter laws against criminals: such as mandatory sentencing and the War on Drugs, were implemented. Critics countered that minorities were disproportionately affected by these policies, increasing social inequality and mass incarceration.

In the twenty-first century, American society is still dealing with a wide range of issues relating to crime, including mass shootings, cybercrime, terrorism, and police brutality. The increasing opportunities for criminal activity caused by technology have led to an increase in fraud, hacking and identity theft in the digital age. In addition, growing concerns about social justice, racial equality and police reform have sparked conversations about the role of law enforcement and the need for comprehensive criminal justice reform (Gabbidon & Greene, 2012).

## **1.2 Theoretical Frameworks for Understanding Crime**

The reasons behind which humans commit crimes are various and different. Different factors can contribute to making a human a criminal or prepare an environment that urges people to commit crimes. This section provides a thorough review of the theories that give a theoretical basis to comprehend the factors and the causes of being a criminal.

### **1.2.1 Sociological Theory**

Many theories suggest that flawed social regulation is the main cause of crime. Gabbidon and Greene (2019) argue that sociological factors like age, social class, poverty, and education level explain criminality. Similarly, Vito and Mahs (2018) state that sociological approaches focus on how

social structure causes crime, explaining how societal structures and institutions contribute to strain and lead to deviant behavior.

### **1.2.2 Biological Theory**

Some crime theories propose a link between biology and behavior, exploring how genes, hormones, and brain activity influence criminal tendencies. Curran and Renzetti (1994) argue that individuals with particular biological characteristics are more likely to become criminals .

### **1.2.3 Economic Theory**

The economic approach examines how poverty, unemployment, and income disparity predispose individuals to criminal behavior. Curran and Renzetti (1994) relate economic status to suicide rates, noting increases during economic depression and growth .

### **1.2.4 Psychological Theory**

Psychological theories, like the biological approach, focus on how individual characteristics lead to criminal behavior. Siegel (2016) explores associations between intelligence, personality, learning, and crime. Psychology has contributed significantly to understanding criminal behavior, from early positivist views to recent research on media influence (Vito and Maahs, 2018). Some view crime as a choice (Wilson and Herrnstein, 1985). Theoretical frameworks integrating social, psychological, economic, and biological factors provide a comprehensive understanding of crime causes. Policymakers and researchers can use these theories to develop effective crime prevention policies (Curran and Renzetti, 1994).

## **1.3 Causes of Crime in the American Society**

There are several causes for committing crimes in American society. Below is a statement of the major ones.

### **1.3.1 Economic Causes**

The economic determinants of crime in American society have been always various and interconnected. Here are some of the main causes.

#### **1.3.1.1 Poverty**

High rates of crime are closely linked to poverty. Individuals confronting challenging economic circumstances may resort to criminal activities in an attempt to better their situation. Gary Lafree (2018) posits that "Children from impoverished families are instilled with the notion of striving for economic success and measuring themselves against this standard. When they discover that they are hindered from legitimately attaining this objective due to being excluded from top-tier educational institutions, lacking the necessary connections to secure employment opportunities, and lacking the cultural capital to assimilate into a middle-class lifestyle, many of them turn to criminal behavior" (p. 97). Addressing poverty through education, job creation, and social services is critical to lowering crime rates and creating safer societies.

#### **1.3.1.2 Unemployment**

According to Lafree (2018), the conventional expectation is that absolute increases in levels of poverty or unemployment will result in increases in crime. In addition to the challenges posed by difficult economic circumstances, unemployment leads to a destabilization of self-confidence and a sense of not belonging, which, in turn, drives individuals to engage in illegal activities. "People who have given up looking for work will often turn to illegal activities" (Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, 2016, p. 16).

### **1.3.1.3 Income Inequality**

In recent decades, rising income inequality has emerged as one of the main sources of concern and the high rate of income inequality means that millions of people are practically unable to meet their needs or their family's needs. Individuals who are unable to achieve success through legal means or have failed to improve their economic position may resort to criminal activities, often targeting their wealthier neighbors or acquaintances. Lafree noted, "In particular, crime increased along with growing political distrust, economic inequality, and family disintegration"(p.14)

### **1.3.1.4Lack of Economic Opportunities**

Poverty and marginalization persist due to unequal access to economic opportunities based on variables such as race, ethnicity, and socio-economic level. Discriminatory employment, housing, and credit practices hinder certain groups from improving their economic conditions through legal channels, prompting some individuals to view criminal activity as a means to address their circumstances. Hunter and Dantzker, (2012) maintain that "The desired outcome of criminality is primarily economic gain" (p.36).

Economic crises and policy reactions also play a significant role. People who experience job losses, unstable housing, financial stress, and economic downturns can lead to an increase in crime rates. "Many prisoners, including the interviewed lifers, come from socially and economically marginalized groups and have suffered many adverse, traumatic childhood and adolescent experiences"(Liem,2016,pp.156-157). Additionally, policies implemented in response to an economic downturn, such as program cuts and austerity measures, can exacerbate social unrest and economic inequality, ultimately contributing to a rise in criminal behavior.

### **1.3.2 Educational Causes**

Educational inequities within American society contribute to criminal activity, rooted in systemic disparities within the education system and broader socioeconomic divides. According to Alexander (2010), inequality in education worsens due to differences in access to quality education based on social and economic background, race, and location. Limited access to high-quality education in low-income schools hampers academic progress and social development, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and crime. School climate and safety significantly influence student behavior and academic achievement. A hostile learning environment, characterized by violence and inadequate support services, increases the likelihood of criminal behavior (National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments, 2023). Hunter and Dantzker (2012) highlight the impact of educational attainment on job prospects and financial stability. Limited academic performance restricts access to suitable career opportunities, leading to social and economic inequalities and potentially pushing individuals towards criminal activities (Haller & Porteiro, 2010).

### **1.3.3 Psychological Causes**

The psychological causes of crime investigate the complex actions of the human mind, reveal how mental states, experiences and behaviors interact to form criminal behavior. Individuals may engage in illegal activities due to mental problems, trauma, or cognitive deficits.

#### **1.3.3.1 Psychological Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences**

The experience of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) is a psychological component that is often associated with criminal behavior. Children who are exposed to violence, abuse, or neglect while growing up are more likely to experience behavioral problems, such as delinquency and criminality. These factors, in turn, increase the likelihood of engaging in criminal activity later in life. Wilson and Herrnstein (1985) say that "a child who is the object of an inconsistent,

noncontingent set of parental reinforcers will feel freer to use violence as a routine means of self-expression "(p.231).

### **1.3.3.2 Psychological Disorders and Mental Illness**

Struggling with severe mental illnesses like major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia is an important factor to take into account. Deviations from social norms and legal requirements can be caused by a variety of factors, including poor judgment, distorted views of reality, and difficulty controlling one's own impulses. Furthermore, Vito and Maahs (2015) point out the frequent co-occurrence of substance abuse disorder with PSMI, which can further exacerbate the risk of criminal behavior. Additionally, Vito and Maahs (2015) emphasize that substance abuse itself is an independent risk factor for crime .

### **1.3.3.3 Cognitive and Behavioral Factors**

Nigg (2017) highlights that the cognitive component associated with criminal behavior is impaired impulse control. People with impulse control may act without thinking about the consequences of their actions, which can lead to reckless criminal behavior. Cognitive distortions, such as faulty thought patterns and irrational beliefs, can further encourage criminal activity by justifying or rationalizing illegal behavior. For example, Gannon et al. (2007) suggest that "if the offender genuinely believes that their sexual crime was acceptable, therapy should focus primarily on restructuring relevant faulty cognitions" (p. 65).

### **1.3.4 Sociological Causes**

Factors like poverty, lack of social support, and negative family dynamics heighten the likelihood of engaging in unlawful activities. Özdemir (2017) highlights that unemployment and educational attainment as additional risk factors for criminal behavior, suggesting a potentially direct

correlation between unemployment rates and crime rates. Criminal acts may stem from societal flaws in structure, and individuals may adopt criminal behaviors through socialization processes. Özdemir (2017) suggests that these circumstances have spurred the development of sociological theories aimed at comprehending criminal behavior.

Ahmadi (2005) suggests that social disorganization theorists assert that a number of elements, including the weakening of family ties and the intangible roles of social institutions such as families, as well as informal social control mechanisms, weaken social solidarity. Other important variables that raise the crime rate including murder, theft, sexual delinquency and addiction are the accelerated rates of industrialization, urbanization and immigration. Klimczuk (2015) identifies two main types of strain that can lead to crime: those blocking the individual's objectives and those involving personal belongings, values, or negative stimuli. Among the most important goals that may generate strain, according to Klimczuk (2015), are money, status or respect, and adolescents' autonomy from adults.

### **1.3.5 Religious Causes**

Hiteshi (2022) suggests that countries where religious practice predominates or religion is heavily preached have lower crime rates than both developed and developing countries. Religion, on the other hand, is not widely preached or practiced in both developed and developing countries. Similarly, research shows that countries where religion predominates have lower rates of overall crime, including homicide, suicide, and other similar crimes. People who attend church or preach regularly are seen to commit fewer minor and less serious crimes. Even government initiatives fall short of religious practices' effectiveness in reducing crime. According to Hiteshi (2022), studies show youth who attend religious lectures, prayers, or other similar events on a regular basis are 39% less likely to engage in criminal activity.

Laub and Sampson (2001) highlight religion's significance as a social control mechanism, inhibiting deviance and crime. Religion shapes our worldview and provides values that guide our behaviors. Arnett (2015) suggests that developing religious beliefs can be an essential part of our identities. This aligns with research findings by Johnson et al. (2008) who found that higher levels of religious involvement in youth are associated with lower rates of substance use and abuse. Similarly, Salvatore and Taniguchi (2012) and Salas-Wright et al. (2015) report lower offending rates among youth with higher religious involvement. However, a potential counterpoint emerges from Arnett's (1998) research, which suggests a decline in regular religious service attendance among emerging adults, particularly college students and this view is supported by Salvatore (2018). This trend could potentially complicate the supposed crime-reduction effect of religion.

Examining specific religious groups, Hill (2017) reports that 58.1% of crimes against the Jewish community in 2016 were motivated by religion, reflecting a 4% increase from the prior year. While prejudice motivated approximately 24.8% of crimes committed against Muslims in the United States in 2016, Hiteshi (2022) suggests a decrease to 18.7% in 2017, despite 102 more crimes being committed against non-Arabs. However, Hiteshi (2022) also highlights a concerning trend of continued rise in anti-Muslim crime.

### **1.3.6 Media Influences on the American Society**

Thukral (2022) highlights the growing importance of social media platforms in criminal investigations. Law enforcement agencies are increasingly utilizing platforms like Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and Twitter to warn the public about local criminal activity. Social media has become a common platform for police departments to post video and image evidence from crime scenes and arrests, alongside updates on ongoing investigations.

Beyond disseminating information to the public, law enforcement is also increasingly seeking subpoenas to access personal correspondence on social media for investigations. Social media plays a multifaceted role in contemporary investigations, assisting in suspect identification, gathering tips on criminal activity, locating missing persons, and even tracking organized crime. Thukral (2022) further suggests that investigators can access personal information on social media users without requiring special permissions in certain situations. Igracki (2017) suggests that the media's influence can be measured through its ability to stimulate imagination. However, this influence can have a negative side effect, potentially inspiring individuals to imitate negative behavior patterns and identify with notorious criminals.

According to Igracki (2017), this sensationalized portrayal of crime can cause the media to stray into a "dangerous zone," becoming an educational or security risk. The pursuit of sensationalism, as Igracki (2017) argues, can lead the media to subtly encourage negative behavior patterns among consumers, potentially condoning socially unacceptable actions. Igracki (2017) further suggests that the media's power to report can sometimes transgress professional boundaries, jeopardizing the right to privacy or the presumption of innocence. Resorting to sensationalism to attract viewers and readers is a common practice in crime reporting, according to Igracki (2017).

#### **1.4 Types of Crime**

In the intricate fabric of American society, a variety of crimes weave through communities, leaving behind trails of devastation and insecurity. From theft to violence, each category of crime casts a distinct shadow on society. Understanding these types of crime is essential for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and citizens as they seek to foster safety and justice within their communities.

### **1.4.1 Property Crimes**

According to Crime Data Explorer (2024), in 2022, there were 5,049,721 property crime incidents and 5,049,721 offenses reported in the U.S. by 13,293 law enforcement agencies. Property crimes include theft, burglary, and vandalism, which essentially target individuals' or entities' assets and properties. Property offenses are prevalent in society due to the persistent desire among individuals to obtain what is deemed to belong to others. This desire is often cultivated by a culture that places a high value on material wealth but offers limited legitimate avenues for its acquisition. According to Otieno (2001), individuals whose paths to success are obstructed may develop envy towards the possessions of others, leading them to pursue these possessions through illegal means.

### **1.4.2 Hate Crimes**

Hate crimes, at their core, are criminal acts driven by hatred. However, this straightforward definition overlooks several crucial aspects essential for a comprehensive comprehension of hate crime. Gerstenfeld (2004) proposes that “The simplest definition of a hate crime is this: a criminal act which is motivated, at least in part, by the group affiliation of the victim” (p.9). Perry (2001) argues Hate crime involves acts of violence and intimidation, usually directed toward already stigmatized and marginalized groups. As such, it is a mechanism of power and oppression, intended to reaffirm the precarious hierarchies that characterize a given social order. It attempts to re-create simultaneously the threatened (real or imagined) hegemony of the perpetrator’s group and the ‘appropriate’ subordinate identity of the victim’s group (p. 10). These crimes not only cause immediate harm to the victims ,but they also have long-term societal and psychological consequences by instilling fear and maintaining hatred. Despite legal and societal attempts to address hate crimes, they continue to pose a substantial issue, emphasizing the importance of education , advocacy, and enforcement in promoting inclusivity and justice for all.

### **1.4.3 Cybercrimes**

According to Regner (2016), the term cybercrime term was coined by Sussman and Heuston in 1995. This kind of crime refers to all illegal acts where a digital device or information system is either a tool or target, or simply a combination of both. Hemraj(2012) states that cybercrime has wide-ranging impacts on the economy, market value, and consumer trust. It disrupts financial systems and businesses, leading to significant financial losses and market instability.

### **1.4.4 Violent Crimes**

According to Amosova(2016),when analyzing the causes and conditions underlying violent crime, it becomes evident that they are not isolated factors but rather interconnected elements within a broader system. Socioeconomic factors play a significant role in shaping violent behavior and influencing individuals' actions within society. Of particular importance are unsatisfied social needs, as they contribute to various forms of violence. These reasons and conditions are inherently social, embedded within the societal contradictions of a community. During transitional periods in society, imbalances and the deterioration of certain groups' social status can intensify violence. This sets off a chain reaction: economic and political crises deepen social tensions, erode traditional values, diminish the worth of human life, and escalate cruelty and violence.

### **1.4.5 Organized Crime**

In the USA, a definition of organized crime can be found in federal statutes within Public Law 90-351, the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968: “Organized crime means the unlawful activities of members of a highly organized, disciplined association engaged in supplying illegal goods and services, including but not limited to gambling, prostitution, loan sharking, narcotics, labor racketeering, and other unlawful activities of members of such associations”. Adamoli (1998) explains that this legislation defines organized crime in terms of the perpetrators rather than the

criminal activities directly. It also embraces a lot of illegal activities, which may not always involve people who indicate organized crime. It also covers a lot of criminal activities, which are not always those who characterize organized crime.

#### **1.4.6 White-Collar Crimes**

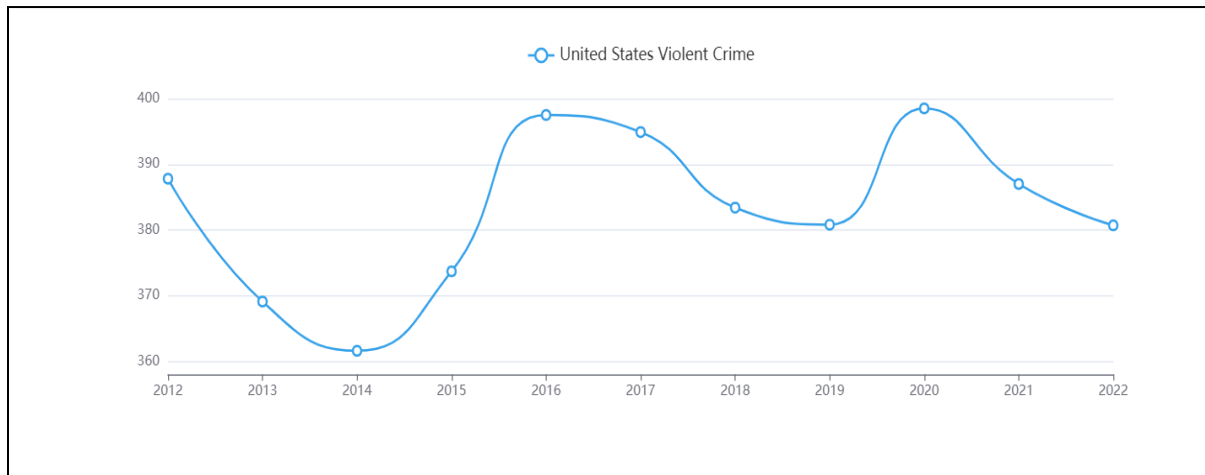
It was sociologist Sutherland who first coined the term ‘white-collar crime’—crimes committed by white-collar criminals. According to Sutherland as declared by Taylor (2002), white-collar criminals came from respectable social status: “crime committed by a person of respectability and high social status in the course of his occupation” (p. 244). White-collar crimes are illegal actions that use peaceful methods to gain money or property. They can take different forms, such as bank embezzlement, money laundering, and all forms of fraud, that include fake benefit claims.

#### **1.5 Analysis of Crime Statistics and Prevalence Rates**

According to HOPE (2023), the government's use of crime statistics has evolved significantly. In the current system of legal governance aimed at monitoring the criminal justice system and its agencies, crime statistics perform a crucial function, unlike in the past when it was a component of the system of state national accounts of society. These days, crime data is being used to monitor the effectiveness of criminal justice partnerships and agencies as well as to assess community requirements. This concept of using crime statistics, which is especially useful, is quite recent. They arose primarily as a result of political modernization efforts and reflect the goals of government policy, which include police reform . Statistics are shown in the figures below :

**Figure 1.1**

*Rate of Violent Crime Offenses by Population*

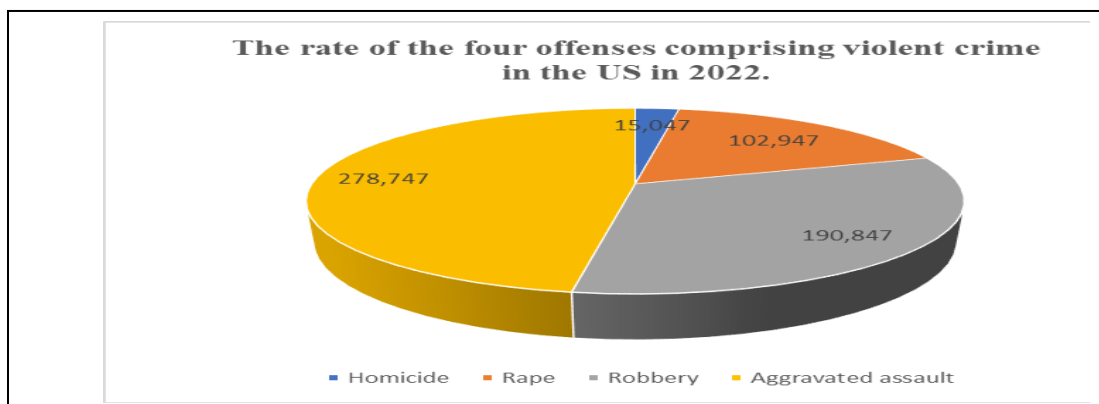


Note. Adapted from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.2024 <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>

Violent crime, including manslaughter, assault, burglary, and disturbed ambush, has been increasing in the United States since 2012. Between 2012 and 2014, there was a significant decrease in violent crime rates, suggesting improvements in security measures. From 2014 to 2016, there was a progressive increase, while 2016-2018 saw a significant increase. From 2018 to 2020, there was a slight decrease, possibly due to law enforcement efforts or societal changes. In 2020, there was a significant increase in violent crime rates, possibly due to COVID-19. From 2020 to 2022, there were some stabilizations, indicating ongoing challenges in addressing crime.

**Figure 1.2**

*Rate of the Four Offenses in the U.S. in 2022.*

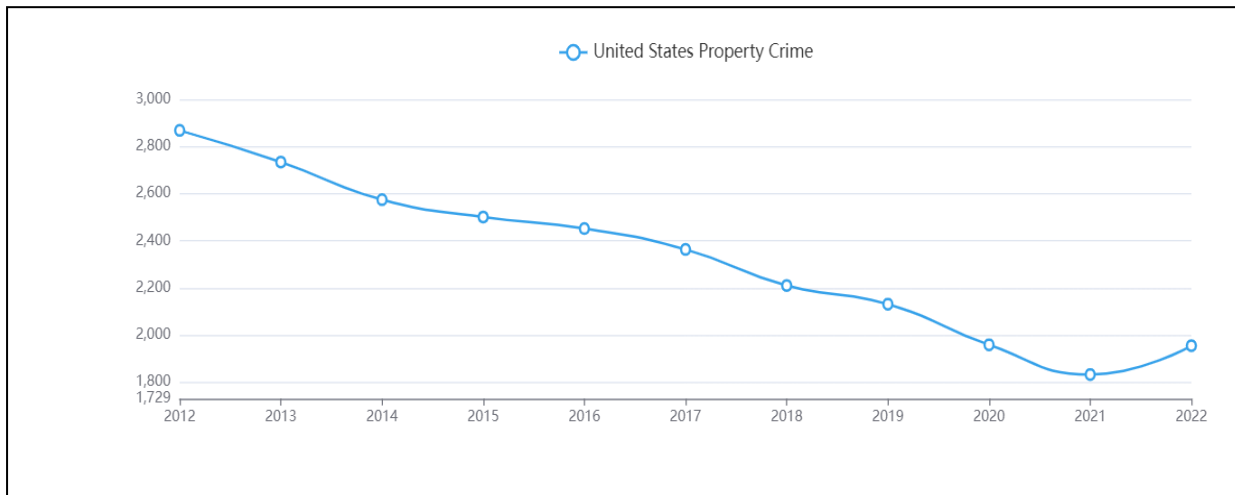


*Note.* Adapted from the statistics of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. 2024 (<https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>).

The US violent crime rate in 2022 is analyzed using a dynamic circle chart. Homicide is the least serious offense, with 15,047 reported incidents. Rape is the most prevalent, accounting for 102,947 incidents. Burglary has the most detailed occurrences, with 190,847. Aggravated assault is the most prevalent, with 278,747 episodes. Property crime, often perpetrated by prolific offenders, poses a significant threat. DNA evidence analysis in property crime cases yields more than double the number of identified suspects, arrests, and prosecution cases compared to conventional methods.

**Figure 1.3**

*Rate of Property Crime Offenses by Population*

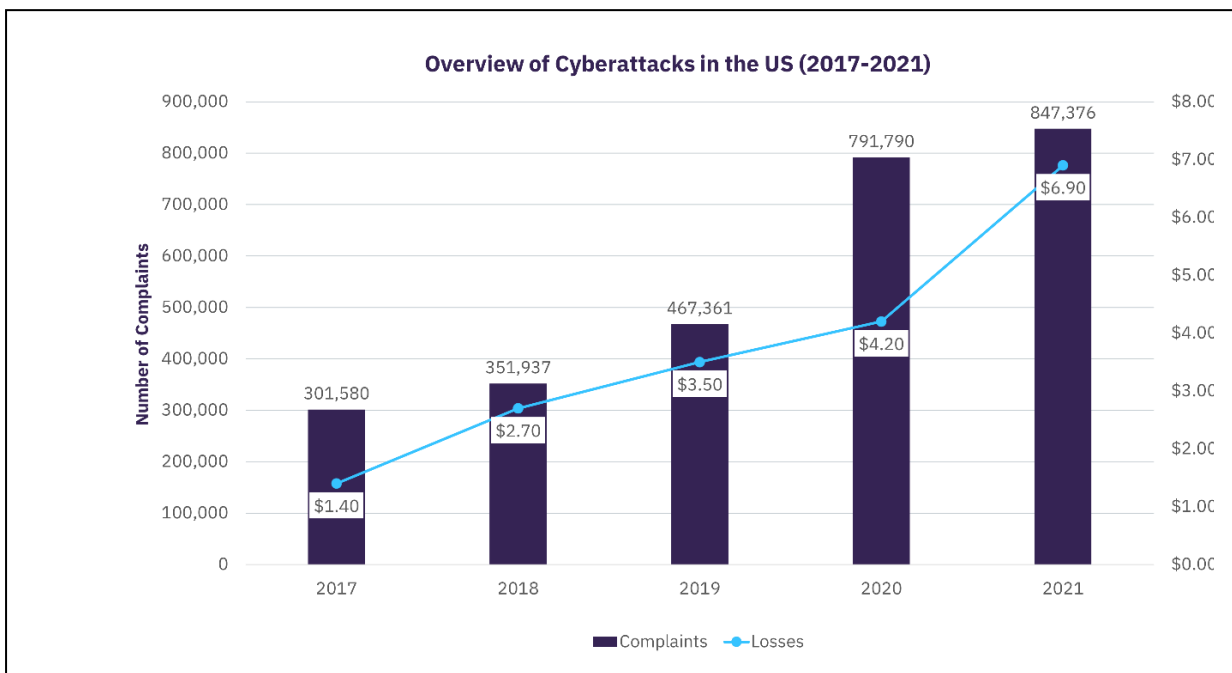


*Note.* Adapted from the statistics of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. 2024 (<https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>).

The chart shows property wrongdoing offense rates in the United States from 2012 to 2022. Between 2012 and 2015, there was a significant decrease, indicating prevention efforts or enhanced security measures. From 2015 to 2018, rates continued to drop, indicating social changes impacting property crime. From 2018 to 2020, rates fell significantly, indicating improved security or financial conditions. In 2022, there was a modest increase, indicating issues in maintaining the decreasing trend.

**Figure 1.4**

*Overview of Cybercrimes in the U.S. (2017-2021)*



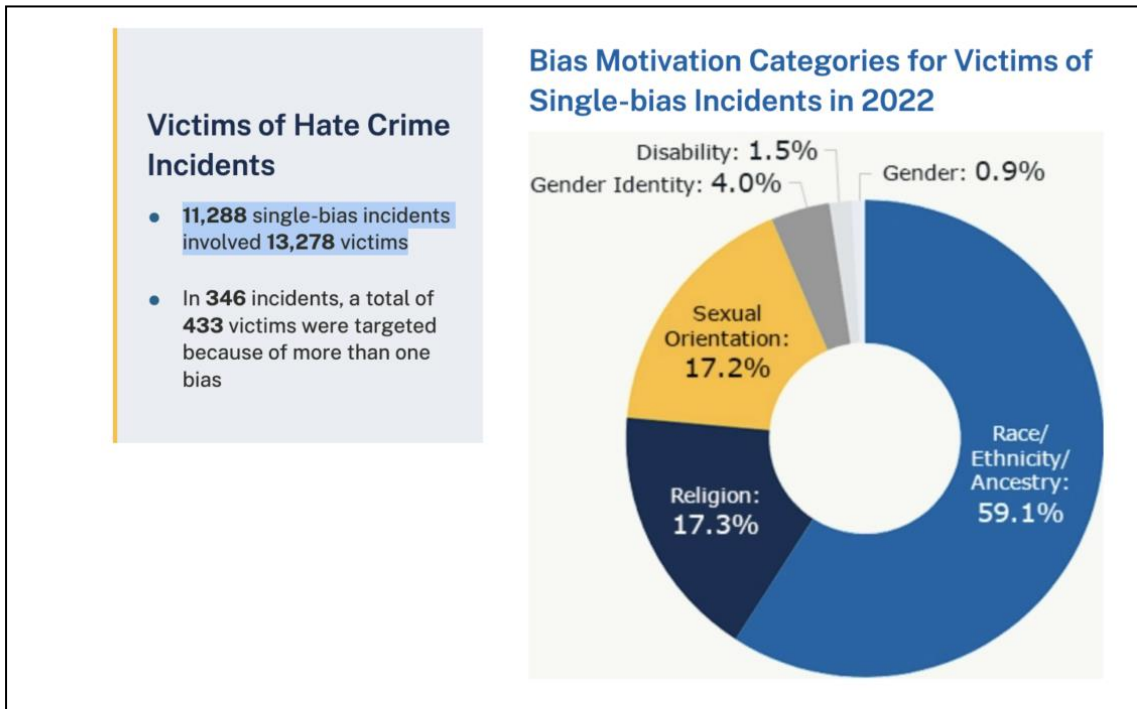
*Note.* Adapted from Global Data for “Increasing Cybercrimes in the US”. 2022 (<https://www.globaldata.com/data-insights/technology--media-and-telecom/increasing-cybercrimes-in-the-us/>).

The US government has requested fortifying its network protection shields amid fears of potential digital assaults following Russia's attack on Ukraine. Cybercrime in 2021 impacted individuals and institutions across the country, with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) recording 847,376 complaints, a 7% increase from the previous year. The financial cost of these malicious acts reached \$6.9 billion. Common cyber threats identified in 2021 included ransomware

attacks, business email compromise scams, and the illicit use of crypto-currencies. Ransomware assaults impacted various casualties, with the IC3 receiving 3,729 protests and misfortunes. Hate crimes, driven by specific biases or prejudices, have evolved into a distinct category within American criminal law, with most states implementing legislation or increasing penalties for offenses where bias serves as a motivating factor.

### Figure 1.5

*Hate Crime Statistics in the US: 2022 Overview*



*Note.* Adapted from Monday numbers: what we know — and what we don't — about hate crimes in America by JOE KILLIAN -. 2022 (<https://ncnewsline.com/2023/10/30/monday-numbers-what-we-know-and-what-we-dont-about-hate-crimes-in-america/>).

The US government reported 13,278 disdain wrongdoing casualties in 2022, with 59.1% attributed to racial, ethnic, or hereditary bias. Strict orientations represented 17.3% of cases, including 1,124 against Jewish people or foundations. Sexual orientation violations accounted for 17.2%, with

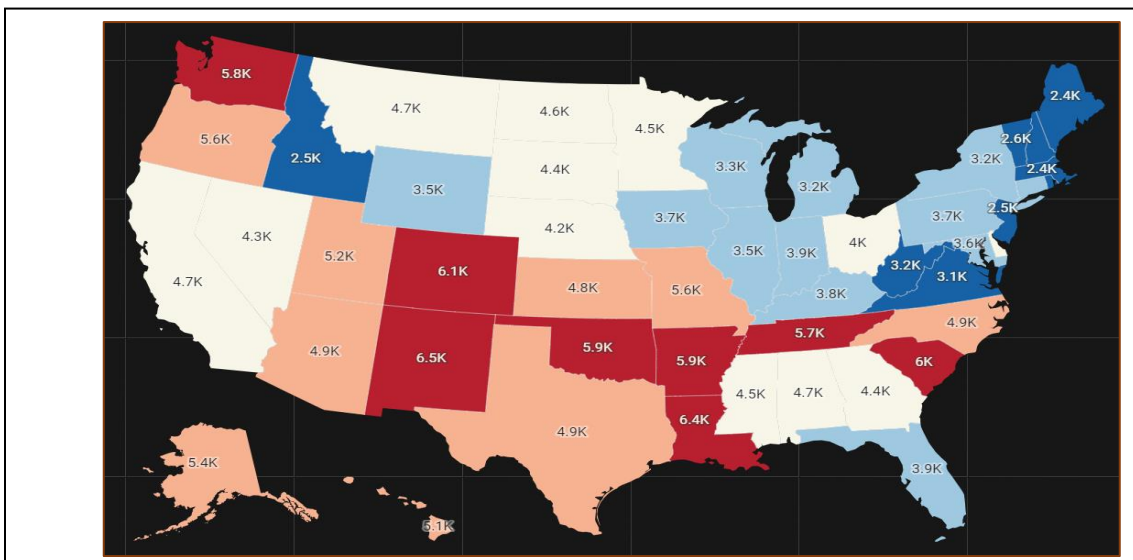
1,947 cases. The number of orientation-related disdain violations increased to 469, the highest since 2013. Disdain crimes involving incapacitated individuals comprised 1.5%.

## 1.6 Identification of High-Risk Populations and Locations

Many entities, news media, travel agencies and other organizations interested in crime in our country compile city and county rankings based on crime index numbers every year when crime in the United States is published. These simplistic and/or incomplete analyses often bring false impressions that adversely affect provinces, cities and their citizens. Many factors must be taken into account when assessing crime and the response of law enforcement in different jurisdictions. Some of these factors, although having a significant impact, are not easily quantifiable or universally relevant for the entire population. To achieve completeness and accuracy in crime assessment, it is imperative to take into account and use the unique geographic and demographic elements associated with each jurisdiction. A responsible researcher can benefit from knowledge from a variety of sources. For example, data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census can be used to gain a deeper understanding of the population composition of a certain area.

**Figure 1.6**

*Map showing Crime Rate by State in America*



*Note.* Adapted from *Crime Rate by State. (per 100k)*, 2024. (<https://www.datapandas.org/ranking-crime-rate-by-state>).

The United States' crime rate distribution shows contrasting security status. New Mexico has the highest rate, with 6,462 incidents per 100,000 inhabitants. Louisiana follows closely with 6,408, and Colorado ranks third with 6,091. South Carolina and Arkansas follow closely with rates exceeding 5,800 per 100,000 population. Oklahoma, Washington, Tennessee, Oregon, and Missouri have rates ranging from 5,600 to 5,900. New Hampshire has the lowest rate at 2,344 incidents per 100,000 inhabitants. Massachusetts, Maine, Idaho, and New Jersey have the safest rates. Vermont, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia, and New York have lower rates.

## **Conclusion**

In the end, this chapter has offered an overview of crime in the United States. By investigating its historical context, theoretical foundations, and multidimensional character of criminal behavior, we have garnered significant insights into the elements that contribute to crime rates and the people most vulnerable. This knowledge allows us to look further into specific forms of crime, assess the efficacy of present policies, and eventually develop more successful tactics for preventing and decreasing crime in American society.



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **Government Solutions**

## Chapter Two: Government Solutions

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## **Introduction**

This chapter explores law enforcement, criminal justice, prevention, and policy analysis, delving into various techniques and treatments. It examines approaches and explores interventions within the criminal justice system. Additionally, it covers prevention and intervention programs. The chapter presents policy measures and concludes with implications for future study and policy formulation.

## **2.1 Strategies for the Enforcement of Laws**

American law enforcement agencies use a variety of strategies to protect public safety and enforce the law. These strategies include preventive measures, community participation, and innovative technologies geared at reducing crime, apprehending offenders, and building confidence in the communities they serve.

### **2.1.1 Policing in the Community**

Community policing is a kind of law enforcement that tailors itself to meet the particular requirements of local communities. As a result, it has evolved over time and in a variety of settings, taking on a variety of shapes. The Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS) of the United States Department of Justice defines community policing as a mentality that encourages police organisations to utilise partnerships and problem-solving approaches in order to address issues such as crime, disturbance, and fear of crime before they become more severe. As opposed to traditional policing, which is primarily concerned with punishing criminals, community policing emphasizes crime prevention through the utilisation of strategies that entail the establishment of connections between law enforcement and the communities that they serve. Additionally, the establishment of trust between law enforcement and the general population is a priority for these efforts (Cossyleon, 2019).

According to Neild (n.d.), the following are some of the operational components that are typical of various community policing programmes:

- Block watches or neighbourhood watches that are sponsored by the police department
- Observation of business meetings
- periodicals for the prevention of crime
- Education about criminal behaviour for the general public in front-of-the-house police stations
- Fostering relationships between community members and civilian volunteers
- The identification of local issues by the community (via polls, town meetings, or other means).

### **2.1.2 Intelligence-Led Policing**

The idea of intelligence-led police has been popular; nevertheless, there is not yet a single definition that is universally acknowledged. On the other hand, there is an agreement that suggests that it is the collection and analysis of information in order to produce intelligence reports that assist law enforcement in making decisions that are both tactical and strategic. Accordingly, intelligence is the primary factor that drives police actions, rather than the other way around. This shifts the focus of policing away from simply reacting to criminal activity and towards preventing and detecting criminal activity (Peterson, 1997). As a result, it is considered innovative and among some people, even revolutionary.

Although the majority of contemporary policing practices are primarily dependent on data-driven approaches that are powered by advanced technology and analysis, the concept of predictive policing has been in use for a considerable amount of time, albeit in a more simplified form. Since the beginning of time, law enforcement has relied on crime data from particular regions to identify

patterns and anticipate the locations of potential future crimes. With the advancement of technology, law enforcement agencies now use computers and sophisticated data models to develop intricate predictive models. These models take into account a variety of factors, including time, weather, geography, and "aftershock" areas, which are areas where a successful crime might lead to similar incidents; for example, gang retaliation (LeCates, 2018).

The goal of law enforcement is to improve the effectiveness of crime prevention by concentrating resources on the hot zones that have been identified. Similarly, intelligence-led policing is likewise dependent on data; however, it concentrates on information that is already present within the system of the law enforcement agency and centres on persons rather than geographical areas(LeCates, 2018).

The purpose of this technique is to collect information regarding domestic incidents, arrests, criminal records, traffic stops, and gang activity. This information is then used by law enforcement to do studies on the obtained data. Individuals who are more inclined to commit recurrent offences or who belong to specific criminal groups can be identified with the use of these analytical findings. Law enforcement can react early to avoid further criminal activities if they detect a repeat offence, thanks to alerts regarding the individual's criminal past (LeCates, 2018).

### **2.1.3 Prevention of Crime, Technology and Innovation**

Hard technology is the primary category that can be used to classify the innovations that have been made in the field of criminal justice technology. On the other hand, improvements in hard technology entail the creation of new materials, gadgets, and equipment that can either assist in criminal activities or the prevention and management of criminal activity.

One of the most important distinctions lies between innovations that are founded on tangible materials and those that are founded on less tangible information systems, but in reality, these two

types of innovations frequently overlap. There is a clear indication of the expansion of hard technologies that are geared at preventing crime. Some examples of these technologies include pervasive surveillance by closed-circuit television cameras, metal detectors in schools, baggage screening at airports, bullet-resistant teller windows in banks, and security systems in retail and residential premises. In addition, personal defence equipment such as tasers, pepper spray, emergency call systems, and ignition interlock systems for vehicles that detect alcohol are also examples of devices that contribute to preventive measures. According to Byrne (2011), law enforcement agencies are implementing new hard technology developments such as the introduction of new weapons, the development of non-lethal force devices, the enhancement of patrol vehicles with technical advancements, and the improvement of police protective gear.

Actions, such as crime prevention programmes and methods, and results, such as decreased crime levels in communities or decreased rates of offending and re-offending by people, are both included in the notion of crime prevention, which has been tackled in a variety of different ways. Researchers have investigated the impact of formal social control mechanisms, such as the deterrent effects of law enforcement, courts, and correctional systems, as well as informal social control mechanisms, focusing on factors such as attachment, commitment, and involvement within family, peer groups, educational institutions, workplaces, and communities, as well as the influence of shame and belief systems or religion. In the realm of crime prevention, researchers have also investigated the impact of these mechanisms. Additionally, efforts to prevent crime have been directed at various levels, including primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention. These efforts have emphasized the significance of individual actions, group initiatives by residents of the neighbourhood, and public interventions such as contacting law enforcement in an effort to prevent crime (ADF, 2023).

Several factors have contributed to the emergence of technology as an ally in the fight against criminal activity. This involves, for instance, utilising massive datasets to train computer systems to

carry out tasks that have historically required human expertise. Artificial expertise (AI) and Machine Learning have brought about a revolution in the field of law enforcement. AI can decipher patterns and identify trends in criminal activity by utilising complex algorithms. This provides law enforcement with the ability to anticipate and prevent illegal acts with an accuracy that has never been seen before. In addition, artificial intelligence technology makes it possible to quickly analyse enormous amounts of digital data, such as files, emails, and communications. This makes it easier for investigators to efficiently sort through and identify evidence that is relevant to the investigation (ADF, 2023).

Predictive policing and data analysis make use of analytical methods to anticipate possible criminals and victims. Law enforcement agencies are able to identify individuals and locations that are more likely to be victims of criminal activity. One of the most notable applications of predictive policing technology is sex offender management software. It assists probation and parole authorities in the monitoring of mobile devices belonging to female offenders. The availability of this software permits prompt intervention in the event that illegal materials are discovered, which has the potential to protect future victims from harm (ADF, 2023).

The technology of facial recognition, which was highlighted by Assistant Chief Armando Aguilar of the Miami Police Department in an interview with the BBC, is utilised by his team roughly 450 times annually and has been shown to help solve many murder cases. In order to assist in the identification of victims or suspects, facial recognition algorithms allow for the analysis of digital photos or videos to detect and identify the faces of individuals. This analysis sometimes involves matching the faces taken in surveillance films or photographs obtained from social media profiles with databases of individuals that are already publicly available (ADF, 2023).

How law enforcement agencies deal with illegal activity has undergone a significant transformation as a result of the use of technology. Artificial intelligence, predictive policing, social media forensics, and face recognition are some of the tools that are providing law enforcement with the resources they need to effectively battle crime in the digital era. Through the integration of both hard and soft technologies, law enforcement organisations have been able to strengthen preventative measures and acquire better capacities to analyse, anticipate, and combat new threats. The ability of law enforcement to maintain public safety and security has been considerably improved as a result of the convergence of technological developments by the American Defence Force.

## **2.2 Systems Interventions in the Criminal Justice System**

Systems interventions in the American criminal justice system entail implementing comprehensive reforms and tactics to address structural concerns and enhance outcomes at multiple levels. These initiatives aim to enhance fairness, efficiency, and effectiveness within the system while promoting rehabilitation, reducing recidivism, and increasing public safety.

### **2.2.1 Policies Regarding the Prosecution and Sentencing**

The goal of this policy is to punish the offender for the crime that they have committed for their actions. Nevertheless, one of which is to protect potential victims by preventing future occurrences of crimes which have already occurred. When deciding the sentences, the courts are required to take into consideration five different goals of sentencing (Sentencing Council, n.d.).

Firstly, when it comes to punishing criminals, options include serving time in prison, doing community service, obeying curfews, or paying fines. Secondly, to reform offenders and prevent future crimes, behaviour change is necessary, such as undergoing substance abuse treatment. Thirdly, to protect the public from criminals and potential reoffending, measures like imprisonment, activity

restrictions, or probation supervision may be taken. Additionally, restorative justice can compel criminals to make amends, providing victims with closure and apologies from perpetrators.

### **2.2.2 Alternatives to Incarceration**

Alternatives to incarceration are punishments beyond prison for convicted individuals, often involving strict requirements and community supervision. These options do not signify leniency but aim to alleviate victims' suffering, benefit communities, provide treatment for substance abuse or mental health issues, and aid in offender rehabilitation. They can also reduce incarceration costs and future criminal behaviour risk. It is crucial to repeal mandatory minimum sentences and empower judges to use cost-effective sentencing options to reduce repeat offenses (FAMM, 2005).

There are numerous alternatives to conventional incarceration for individuals in the criminal justice system. These alternatives target the root causes of criminal behaviour, lessen the strain on the justice system, and encourage successful community reintegration. Some of these alternatives include:

- Counselling or admonishing by law enforcement: Instead of immediate arrest, law enforcement may provide counselling or refer individuals to other agencies.
- Probation diversion: Offenders agree to fulfill specific requirements overseen by the Probation Department rather than facing traditional court proceedings.
- Citation and summons: Offenders receive a ticket or summons to appear in court instead of being temporarily detained.
- Bail for the Station House: A predetermined bail amount is collected at the station or jail.
- Release on Own Recognizance (ROR)\*\*: Offenders are released without bail, based on their promise to appear in court.
- Supervised ROR: Similar to unsupervised ROR but with additional conditions, such as participation in a supervision program.

- Diversion programs: Offenders participate in remedial programs in exchange for charges being postponed or dropped.
- Community service: Offenders perform unpaid work instead of imprisonment.
- Day fines: Fines are based on the offender's income to make punishments more equitable.
- Electronic monitoring: Offenders are tracked using tracking devices.

These alternatives provide customized interventions to tackle various aspects of an individual's situation, aiming to decrease repeat offenses, support rehabilitation, and enhance outcomes for both offenders and communities.

### **2.2.3 Programmes for Rehabilitative and Re-Entry Services**

As a result of the Executive Order, the Department is required to devise a comprehensive strategy with the objective of easing the process of reintegration into society for those who have a criminal record. In this plan, there are provisions for providing assistance to encourage success after incarceration, investigating the possibility of sealing or expunging criminal records in situations where it is appropriate, and removing obstacles that prevent individuals from getting a variety of critical services. Obtaining identity granted by the government, gaining access to housing, obtaining work and occupational licences, pursuing education, acquiring health insurance and healthcare, gaining access to public benefits, receiving transportation, and regaining the ability to vote are all included in these services. According to the United States Department of Justice (n.d.), the ultimate objective is to facilitate the successful reintegration of individuals with criminal histories into society by removing institutional barriers and providing the appropriate support services.

The public's support for rehabilitation has been referred to as a "criminological fact" in prior research (Cullen, 2006,). Research that has been carried out over several decades has repeatedly

demonstrated that the general public in the United States is in favour of the offender rehabilitation programme. In the existing body of research, there are a few major discoveries that deserve to be discussed. Three important elements arise concerning the public's thoughts on approaches to rehabilitation in penal settings. First, there is a widespread sentiment of support for rehabilitation among the general public, with the majority of people expressing the idea that rehabilitation ought to be the primary priority in the majority of correctional facilities. In the second place, specialised rehabilitation programmes, particularly those that are associated with education and job training, are consistently supported by the general public. For instance, in a poll that was carried out in two urban areas of Ohio in the year 1986, roughly six out of ten respondents picked educational and vocational training as the most successful method for treating offenders while they were incarcerated. As a third point of interest, there is considerable support for "child saving" efforts, which push for the provision of treatment to juveniles who have committed crimes. According to Petrich et al. (n.d.), this sentiment is practically universal among Americans, which reflects common sense in the significance of intervening early to provide support for youth who have become disobedient.

The term "prisoner re-entry" refers to all of the activities and programmes that are aimed to prepare individuals who have a criminal record to safely reintegrate into society and lead lives that comply with the law. As stated by Jonson and Cullen (2015), the public's support for readmission is founded on a long-standing preference for rehabilitation, which is a reflection of broader society norms. As public support for progressive measures continues to gain traction and support for mass incarceration continues to decline, it is anticipated that public support for rehabilitation and re-entry will continue to strengthen. This transition may be seen in the falling support for punitive measures, which is evidenced by a plateau in the expansion of the prison population and a lower endorsement of the death sentence. A greater societal drive towards adopting a correctional system that is more inclusive is being represented by these shifts in public perception, which transcend generational

boundaries and signal a larger societal revolution. The result of this is that there is a growing push to embrace a holistic view of rehabilitation and explore alternate options to incarceration, which is a signal of a paradigm change inside the American prison system (Petrich et al, n.d.).

Politically, offender reintegration can be problematic, which can lead to a variety of challenges for those who are participating in these projects. Law enforcement officers who are active in re-entry initiatives frequently encounter challenges that they classify as the "Three P's: Politics, Personalities, and Priorities." In addition, there is a widespread misunderstanding that the participation of law enforcement in re-entry programmes involves social work rather than concentrating on the prevention of crime and the protection of the public (BJA, 2005).

These are some extra difficulties to consider: Political priorities that are always shifting. When law enforcement agencies respond to "hot-button" issues, they establish an unstable foundation for their operations. No invitation has been sent to the police to participate in the discussion and decision-making process regarding returning offenders. Because of this, they are more reactive than proactive in response to the legislation or the protocols that correctional agencies have established to manage returning offenders.

The local political climate may be resistant to the execution of re-entry programmes in their communities, which is one reason why political buy-in sometimes fails to materialise. Concerns have been raised by some who are opposed to these programmes that the formation of a programme would encourage more criminals to migrate to the community to make use of the benefits offered by the programme. As a consequence of this, the local political establishment can be hesitant to accept further criminals or to make their communities safe havens for those who have a criminal past. This opposition from the political arena can present significant hurdles to the beginning of reintegration projects and to their capacity to continue for an extended period.

Flexible administrations, shifting administrations, and the public policies and legislation that result from those administrations have the potential to have a negative impact on the authority of the police. As an illustration, if there are no explicit and formalised policies in place, a change in the political structure of the state can derail efforts that are being made on a statewide level. The practice of conducting searches without a warrant by law enforcement officers, regardless of whether or not a parole or probation official is present, is a significant illustration of this influence. One state may allow warrantless searches, while another state might not. Altering the strategies and actions that are now in place can necessitate the addition of new resources and procedures to carry out the same tasks.

The involvement of law enforcement in reintegration attempts can be greatly hampered when there is no support from the government or political institutions. The participation of law enforcement becomes more difficult if the governing body of the jurisdiction does not support the approach taken by law enforcement. The lack of support can be attributed to many factors, the most important of which are worries regarding image and the possibility of negative press. The involvement of political representatives or decision-making bodies in the process of offender re-entry may give rise to concerns that they may send the wrong message or contradict the political image they have constructed for themselves. As a consequence of this, they could be reluctant to endorse such projects to save themselves from any potential backlash or damage to their reputation.

### **2.3 Initiatives for Preventative Measures and Intervention**

Preventive measures and intervention initiatives are proactive efforts to address the core causes of crime, decrease risks, and promote positive results for individuals and communities alike. These programs include a variety of strategies stated below.

### **2.3.1 The Programme for Youth Diversion**

Bynum and Thompson (1996) say that diversion is an endeavour that is made to divert juvenile offenders away from the system of juvenile justice. Following the establishment of the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice in 1967, these programmes were developed to serve a variety of goals.

This method intends to eliminate or decrease the stigma that is associated with formal engagement in the court system. According to the idea of labelling, young people who commit small offences run the risk of being labelled as "delinquents" or "deviants" by the legal system. This method has the potential to cause the youth themselves to internalise these labels. According to Farrell et al. (2018), as a consequence, young people may have the perception that their legitimate prospects in society are limited, and as a result, they may comply with these labels by engaging in additional delinquent behaviour.

Proven methods for diverting young people make use of screening and evaluation tools that are standardised. It clearly describes the population that the government targets. Create and take advantage of a sprawling network of community-based service providers. Invest in solid partnerships that span multiple agencies. Make use of formal agreements for distraction. Remove the arrest record and prevent any further prosecution from occurring.

### **2.3.2 Treatment and Prevention Programmes for Substance Abuse**

Abuse of substances refers to the practice of using an excessive amount of a drug in a manner that is detrimental to either the individual or society. When a person uses a substance for an extended period, they develop a physical reliance on it. This leads to a change in their physiological condition, which causes withdrawal symptoms to appear when they stop using the drug, on the other hand,

psychological dependence is characterised by an extreme need to continue using a drug even when there is no physical dependence on the substance. Although alcohol is recognised as one of the many substances that can lead to substance addiction, the fact that it is so prevalent and has such a significant influence in the United States is so significant that it is sometimes considered in isolation from other substances when discussing concerns related to substance misuse (Gryphon, 1990).

Research in youth treatment services is expanding, revealing differences in treatment programs for adolescents. Effective treatment emphasizes integrating service environments and involving families or guardians. Comprehensive youth programs should include parent training, supervised free time, activities promoting social responsibility, coordination with other agencies, access to educational resources, and collaboration with juvenile justice and drug courts. These components ensure positive outcomes for young people undergoing treatment. Numerous successful prevention treatments target specific areas such as family, school, or community, addressing environmental, developmental, or skill-related factors. The National Institute on Drug Abuse outlines sixteen fundamental principles for preventive programs, based on risk and protective factors, program type, and delivery method, serving as guides for developing effective substance use prevention initiatives (Youth.Gov, n.d.).

### **2.3.3 Services Involving Mental Health**

The Mental Health Services module offers various services for people in Queensland, Canada. It is designed to improve the quality of life for those dealing with mental illnesses or difficulties. These services focus on assessing, diagnosing, monitoring, and treating individuals with mental illnesses or disorders affecting their minds, emotions, perception, memory, and behaviour. According to Bierman et al. (2020), mental health services are vital for preventing delinquent behaviour and supporting positive development in young people. Effective mental health services follow key ideas like focusing on the consumer, involving families and carers and creating tailored rehabilitation programs. These

principles, as outlined by Mental Health Services (MHS), ensure comprehensive and responsive mental healthcare for those in need.

## **2.4. An Analysis of Policy**

Policy analysis evaluates how governments address criminal behavior and its causes. This discipline covers a wide range of approaches, from assessing the effectiveness of law enforcement techniques and criminal justice reforms to evaluating the social and economic policies that influence crime rates. Policy analysts seek to assess the strengths and flaws of current policies and make evidence-based recommendations. Such analysis is essential for educating public discourse, influencing legislative action, and eventually, improving the effectiveness and fairness of crime policy in the United States.

### **2.4.1. The Evaluation of Policy Initiatives**

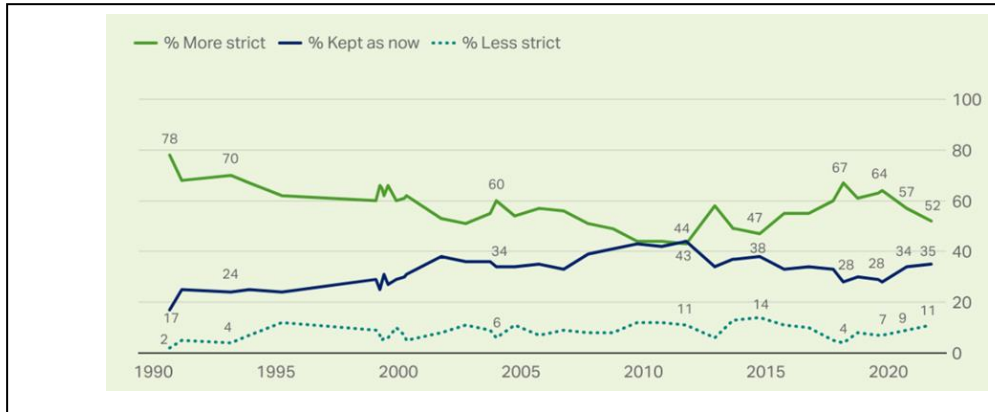
Gun control refers to legal measures aimed at regulating the possession and use of firearms to prevent or limit their availability. While historically it included restrictions on other types of weapons, nowadays, it mainly focuses on firearms. In many developed countries, gun control laws are strict and widely accepted. However, it debated political issues. Advocates argue that it is crucial for public safety, while opponents see it as a violation of personal freedoms.

The U.S. stands out due to its constitutional protection of gun ownership, despite high rates of firearm-related homicides. Proponents of stricter gun control believe it would save lives and reduce crime. On the other hand, opponents argue it would hinder law-abiding citizens from defending themselves against armed criminals. The U.S. gun control debate revolves around the interpretation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right to bear arms. Landmark Supreme Court decisions, like *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) and *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010), expanded this

right to include individual self-defense, shaping the ongoing debate and legal landscape surrounding gun control in the U.S.

**Figure 2.1**

*Americans' Tendency for Stricter Gun Laws*



Note. Adapted from Stricter Gun Laws Less Popular in U.S, by Megan Brennan. 2021. (<https://news.gallup.com/poll/357317/stricter-gun-laws-less-popular.aspx>).

Public opinion on stricter gun control laws has fluctuated since 1990. Initially, in a climate of high crime rates, a record 78% of Americans supported stricter gun sales laws. Over time, support for stricter gun control has fluctuated, often spiking after prominent mass shootings and then declining as the memory of these events fades. In recent years, notable spikes occurred following events like the Parkland, Florida, school shooting, with support reaching 67%, the highest since 1993. However, support has waned since then. Last year saw a decline, with a notable drop among Republicans, reaching their lowest point at 22%. This year, there's been a further decrease, particularly among independents, while Democrats' support for stricter gun laws has remained high, reaching 91%. (Inc, 2017)

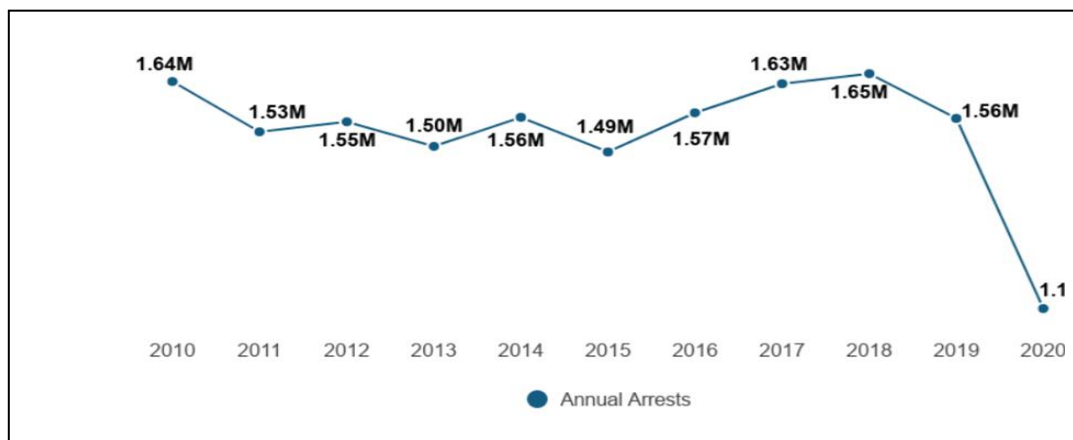
The Global Commission on Drug Policy, a group of eminent world leaders and intellectuals who promote evidence-based drug policy reforms at international, national, and regional levels, stated in

2011 that the term "war on drugs" refers to coordinated campaigns that governments have conducted over the past fifty years to enforce the prohibition of drugs. These campaigns have primarily been carried out through the coercive suppression of production and the criminalization of drug use, possession, and supply.

When the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs came into being 60 years ago, and when President Nixon launched the U.S. government's war on drugs 50 years ago, policymakers believed that harsh law enforcement action against those involved in drug production, distribution and use would lead to an ever-diminishing market in controlled drugs such as heroin, cocaine and cannabis, and the eventual achievement of a "drug-free world." In practice, the global scale of illegal drug markets-largely controlled by organized crime-has grown dramatically over this period (OSF,2021).

**Figure 2.2**

*Timeline of Arrests for Drug Offenses Nationwide*



*Note.* Adapted from National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics. 2021. (<https://drugabusestatistics.org/drug-related-crime-statistics/>).

In 2020, there was a notable decline in the number of drug arrests across the United States, breaking the steady pattern observed from 2010 to 2019. Before 2020, drug arrest rates remained

relatively consistent. Although there is data available for the total number of drug arrests in 2016, there is no breakdown by drug category for that year. Annually, approximately 1.16 million Americans are arrested for offences related to the sale, manufacture, or possession of illegal substances. The number of drug-related arrests between 2019 and 2020 decreased by over 400,000. Notably, drug-related arrests, including those involving marijuana, account for 26% of all arrests in the U.S., with marijuana-related arrests alone comprising 11% of total nationwide arrests. (National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics, 2022)

Those who are impacted by the War on Drugs will have access to life-saving federal benefits such as SNAP nutrition assistance, TANF, and housing assistance. The Drug Policy Reform Act (DPRA) of 2021 seeks to decriminalise personal drug use and possession, shifting the focus of federal drug policy from the Department of Justice to the Department of Health and Human Services. The DPRA will establish a "Commission on Substance Use, Health, and Safety" under HHS to determine evidence-based benchmarks. The DPRA will establish a "Commission on Substance Use, Health, and Safety" under HHS to determine evidence-based benchmarks. Currently, drug possession is the most common arrest in the United States, with over 1.35 million arrests occurring annually. Over-policing targets Black and Brown communities, resulting in millions of people serving prison time for simple possession. Despite spending hundreds of billions of dollars on drug enforcement, the war on drugs continues to be destructive (*H.R. 4020 - the Drug Policy Reform Act of 2021*, 2021).

#### **2.4.2 The Influence of Political Ideologies on the Policy Regarding Crime**

In the United States, political ideologies play a significant part in the formation of crime policy. According to a report published by the Brennan Centre for Justice, conservative leaders tend to favour strict crime policies, whereas their liberal counterparts tend to lean towards supporting rehabilitation and prevention programmes (Brennan Centre for Justice, 2019).

However, research suggests that tough-on-crime policies, such as mandatory minimum sentences and three-strikes laws, may not help reduce crime rates. Furthermore, these policies may add to the problem of mass imprisonment and racial inequality (Alexander, 2010). On the other hand, measures aimed at prevention and rehabilitation, such as vocational training and support for mental health, proved to be effective in reducing the number of repeat offences and improving public safety (Lattimore et al, 2012).

In summary, policy analysis serves as a vital instrument in comprehending and tackling crime issues in American society. By assessing policy measures, such as firearm regulations and drug policy revisions, and acknowledging the influence of political ideologies on crime policy, policymakers can develop effective and evidence-based strategies. James Q. Wilson, a distinguished American political scientist and criminologist, once said that the problem of crime is not a problem of poverty, but a problem of order (Varieties of Police Behavior, 1968).

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this chapter examined a range of strategies and interventions within law enforcement, criminal justice, prevention, and policy analysis. From community policing to intelligence-led policing and the integration of technology in crime prevention, various approaches have been explored. Additionally, we have discussed criminal justice interventions including prosecution and sentencing policies, alternatives to incarceration, and rehabilitation programmes. Prevention and intervention initiatives such as youth diversion programmes, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services were also addressed. Moreover, policy analysis was conducted, evaluating initiatives like gun control laws and drug policy reform, and considering the influence of political ideologies on crime policy.

## **General Conclusion**

This research on crime in American society analyzed the intricacy of criminal conduct, the variety of its manifestations, and the responses of the government aimed at combating and reducing it. Extensive research has focused on the many and often interrelated factors that contribute to crime. Important factors contributing to criminal conduct include societal change, unemployment, racism, poverty, and an unresponsive bureaucracy. These factors contribute to a climate that promotes criminal activity, highlighting the importance of developing a comprehensive approach to both preventing and addressing crime.

This study aimed to comprehensively analyze the crime issue in America, including its causes, types, and potential solutions. The research adopted a documentary research design within a qualitative approach to collect and analyze data from various documents. It also employed the historical research design to provide a concise overview of the evolution of crime in American society.

The results of this study have demonstrated the following:

American society encompasses various categories of crime, including property crimes, violent crimes, organized crimes, white-collar crimes, and hate crimes. Each category has distinct challenges that must be addressed through unique management strategies and mitigation techniques. Acts of violence, such as sexual offenses, homicide, and physical attacks, have a significant and far-reaching effect on individuals and their communities, instilling dread and diminishing the overall quality of life. Property crimes, such as theft, burglary, and vandalism, result in financial losses and a sense of unease. White-collar crime, while not as apparent, has a substantial influence on the economy and the trust that the public has in institutions.

Over time, the strategies employed by governments to address crime have transformed, with present-day approaches emphasizing a blend of law enforcement efforts and community-based

initiatives. Efforts are currently underway to enhance police accountability, address systematic racism, and reform policing technologies. Furthermore, the importance of allocating resources towards community investments as a means of preventing crime is becoming more evident. For the establishment of a secure and resilient society, individuals must be provided with access to economic prospects, cheap housing, healthcare, and top-notch education. This study highlights the need to use data to inform policy decisions and the continuous need for research to adjust to the changing landscape of crime prevention. Furthermore, it emphasizes the significance of empowering local stakeholders and involving them in the process of identifying and implementing efficient solutions. In the USA, the battle against crime is ultimately a collaborative endeavor that involves the participation of the government, law enforcement agencies, and the general populace.

Ultimately, this research highlighted the intricate nature of crime in American culture and emphasized the necessity of a holistic approach to tackle its causes, consequences, and solutions. The government has a crucial role in implementing laws and fostering a deterrent environment against crime. May American Society progress towards a more secure and fair future for all its members by comprehending the fundamental causes and manifestations of crime and by allocating resources to comprehensive solutions.

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## المخلص

يناقش هذا البحث الجريمة في المجتمع الأمريكي. يهدف لإيجاد مختلف أنواع وأسباب الجريمة في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية كذلك يكشف حلول الحكومة لمنع وتخفيض معدل الجرائم. تم استخدام اطار الأسلوب النوعي لجمع البيانات و تحليل الوثائق المتاحة . كذلك تم توظيف الأسلوب التاريخي لاعطاء تاريخ موجز لتطور الجريمة في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية و لشرح استراتيجيات الحكومة المتخذة لمنع الجريمة. أظهرت النتائج ان الجريمة لازالت تشكل مشكلة كبيرة في أمريكا وأن هناك أنواع مختلفة للجريمة مثل جرائم الكراهية، جرائم العنف وجرائم الملكية، أيضا الأسباب متنوعة ومعقدة تراوحت بين تربوية واقتصادية إلى اجتماعية ودينية. لكن هناك تراجع ملحوظ في معدلات الجريمة مؤخرا و هذا راجع لجهود الحكومة الأمريكية في مجال علم الجريمة بما في ذلك استراتيجيات إنفاذ القانون مثل الشرطة المجتمعية والشرطة التي تفوقها المخبرات ، التشريعات وإصلاح العدالة الجنائية ، برامج منع الجريمة ، التعليم والتوعية .

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** المجتمع الأمريكي ، الأسباب، الجريمة، الحلول، الأنواع .