

# SOCIAL DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL PART II

*Without deviance from normality, there can be no  
progress.*

Frank Zappa



# SOCIAL CONTROL

- *mechanisms of social control*: formal and informal ways of directing or influencing members' behavior to conform to the group's values and norms
- *internal means of control*: operate on the individual even in the absence of reactions by others
- All societies impose social control on citizens to some degree to monitor and regulate behavior formally and informally.
- No society is able to rely solely upon internalization of its normative code, though some are more successful at it than others (Japan).





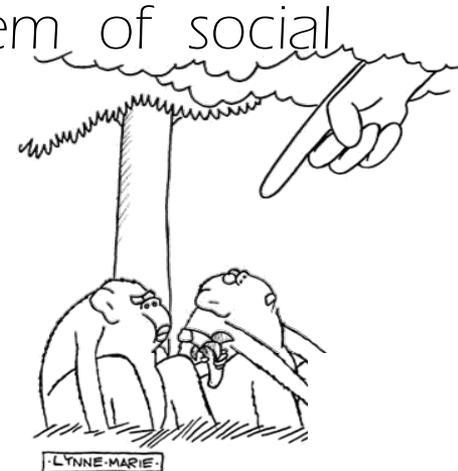
# SOCIAL CONTROL

- In *large-scale societies*, the most visible mechanisms are laws, courts and police. This is only one aspect of social control and is usually the least effective.
- *Small-scale societies* maintain social control without complex legal institutions.
- People who violate norms can be subjected to gossip, public ridicule, social ostracism, insults and even threats of physical harm by other members of their community.



# SOCIAL CONTROL

- In some societies, social control involves the **threat of supernatural punishment** from the gods or ancestral spirits for deviation from the norm. Since it is assumed that crimes against other people are likely to be punished, whether they are publicly known or not, belief in divine retribution is a powerful tool for getting people to behave properly.
- The key to understanding a culture's system of social control is to understand the social norms on which it is based.





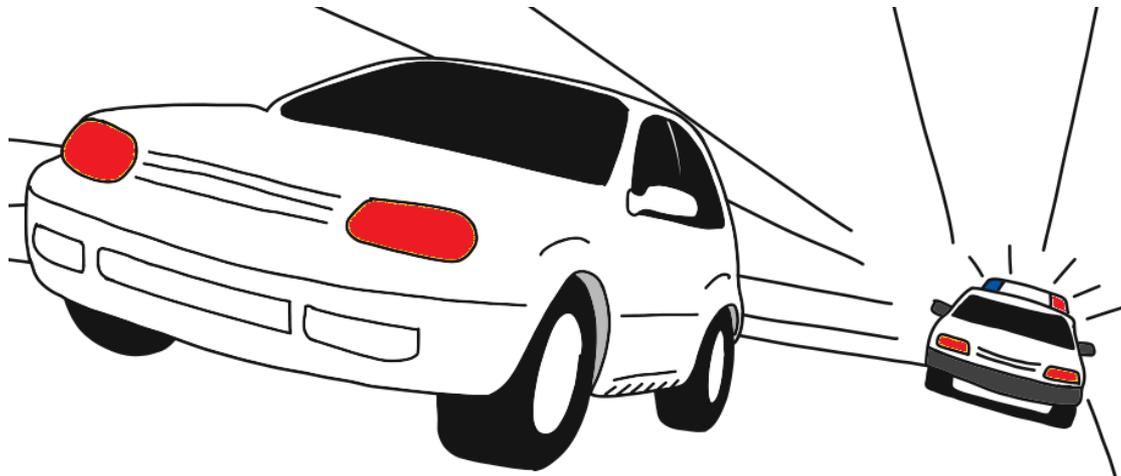
# SOCIAL CONTROL

- David Riesman's forms of social control
  - *inner directed*: personal values are determined early by immediate family, are not necessarily related to any wider social forces and are likely to remain unchanged ... preindustrial, traditional societies
  - *other directed*: individuals seek their peer group's approval and fear being outcast ... has a coercive effect ... induces individuals to take on the goals, ideology, likes and dislikes of their peer group ... heavily industrialized societies, where the population is dense and perhaps beginning to decline ... shame oriented



# SOCIAL CONTROL

- US drivers exceed legal speed limits and don't feel bad about it unless they're caught.
- The vast majority of these drivers would not drive away from a car accident that they caused.
- Police don't spend much time watching for hit-and-run accidents but they do work hard at catching speeders.





# SANCTIONS

- ...rewards and penalties used by a group's members to regulate an individual's behavior.
- **negative sanctions**: actions that discourage the repetition or continuation of the behavior
  - shaming
    - can be centerpiece of public ritual
  - degradation ceremony
- **positive sanctions**: actions that encourage the individual to continue acting in a certain way ... In order to be effective, a positive sanction does not need to offer an immediate reward. It can be a supernatural reward following death.





# SANCTIONS

- **formal sanctions**: actions that express institutionalized approval/disapproval of behavior ... applied in a public ritual
- **positive**: planned public ceremonies that express social approval, parades, presentation of awards, banquets, awards of money
- **negative**: expulsion, dismissal, fines, imprisonment



# SANCTIONS

- **informal sanctions:** Many social responses to a person's behavior involve informal sanctions, or actions by group members that arise spontaneously with little or no formal direction ... very effective in small-scale societies
- **positive:** smiles, handshakes, hugs ... Receiving the esteem of one's peers is often sufficient motivation.
- **negative:** spontaneous displays of disapproval, frowns, gossip, impolite treatment





# THE EMERGENCE OF LAWS

- The **consensus approach** assumes laws are a formal version of people's norms and values.
  - example: People generally agree that stealing is wrong. Laws emerge that provide penalties for those caught violating the law.
- The **conflict approach** assumes that the elite use their power to enact laws that support their economic interests and go against the interests of the lower class.



# THE EMERGENCE OF LAWS

- How laws come about varies. In **small-scale societies**, they usually evolve over time and are part of the cultural tradition. These are referred to as **common laws**.
- In **large-scale societies**, many laws that derived from old common laws are formalized by being written down in **penal codes**.
- Other laws in complex societies do not evolve but are created by enactment in legislatures or by rulers. These may or may not be codifications of existing social norms.
- Those laws that parallel existing norms usually are more likely to be accepted and followed without coercion.





# THE EMERGENCE OF LAWS

- Crime is behavior that violates a society's legal code.
  - **violent crime**: an unlawful event (such as homicide, rape and assault) that may result in injury to a person
  - **property crime**: an unlawful act that is committed with the intent of gaining property but that does not involve the use or threat of force against an individual
  - **juvenile crime**: breaking of criminal laws by individuals under the age of 18



# THE EMERGENCE OF LAWS

- Crime is behavior that violates a society's legal code.
- **white-collar crime**: committed in the course of one's job for the purpose of personal or organizational gain ... embezzlement, bribery, fraud, theft of services, kickback schemes
- **victimless crime**: violates those laws meant to enforce the moral code ... usually involve the use of narcotics, illegal gambling, public drunkenness, the sale of sexual services, etc



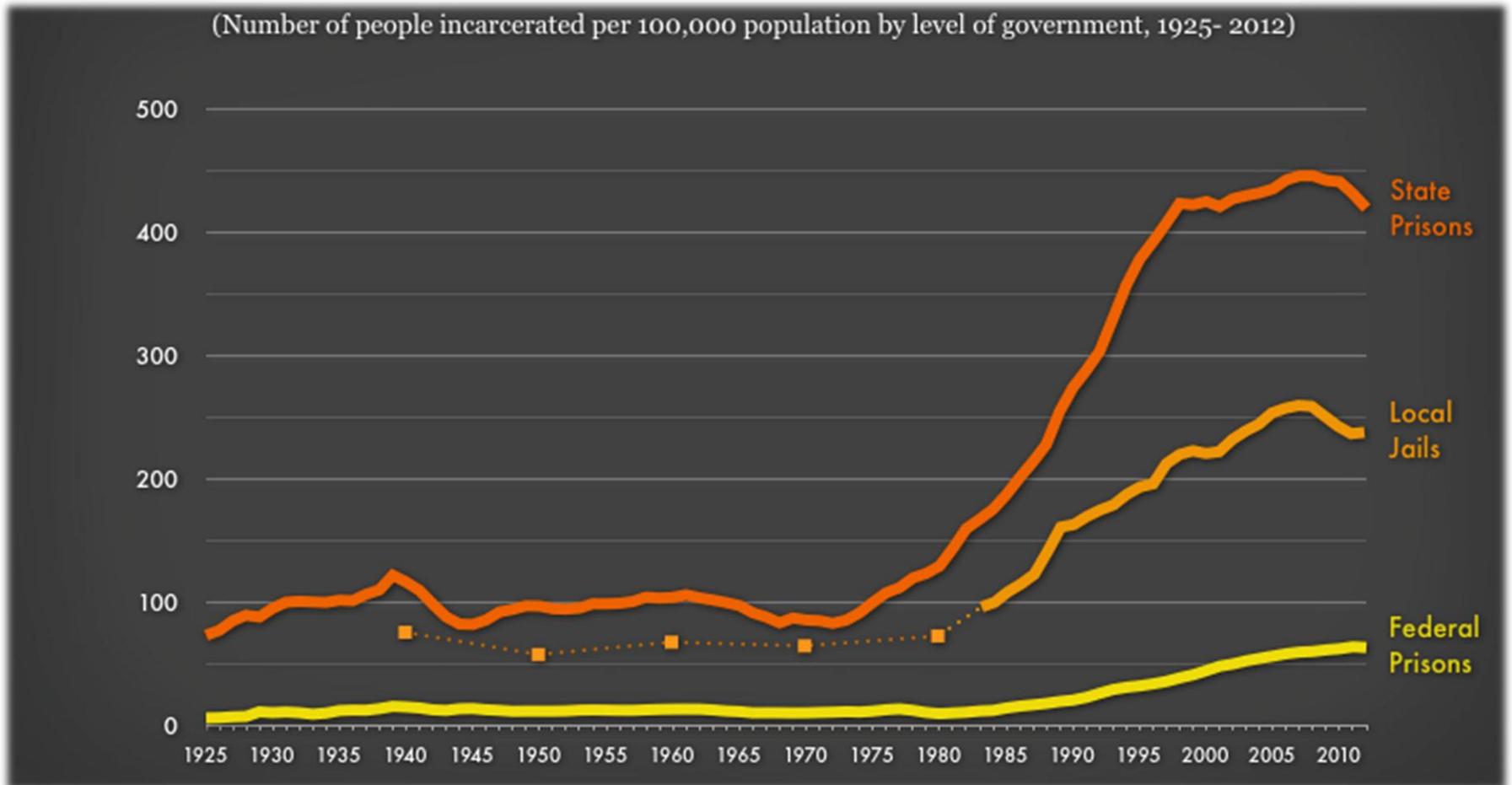


# THE EMERGENCE OF LAWS

- goals of imprisonment
  - *separate* criminals from society
  - *punish* criminal behavior
  - *deter* criminal behavior
  - *rehabilitate* criminals



# REACTION TO DEVIANCE





# REACTION TO DEVIANCE

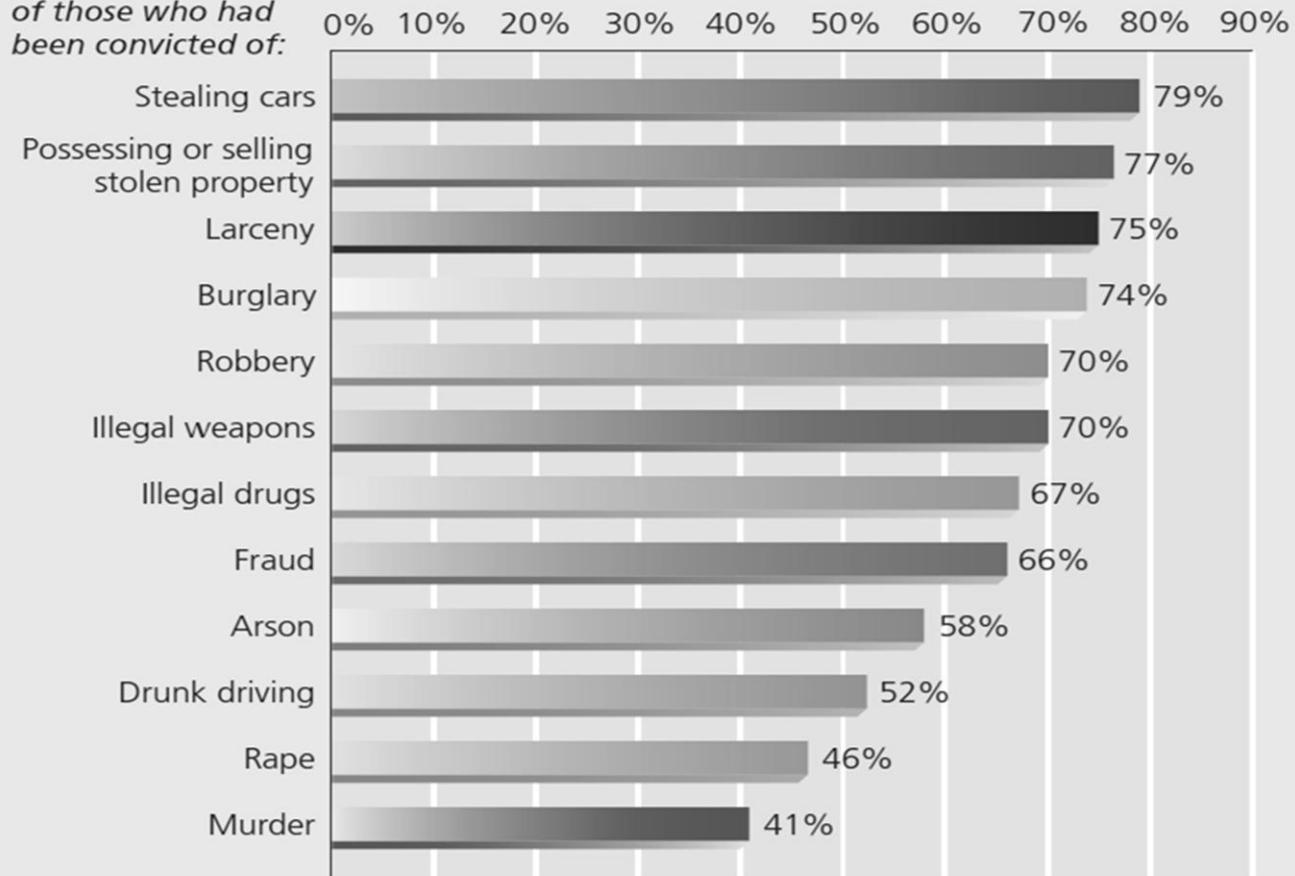
Characteristics	Percentage of Prisoners with These Characteristics	Percentage of U.S. Population with These Characteristics
<b>Age</b>		
18–24	26.4%	9.9%
25–34	35.4%	13.5%
35–44	25.2%	14.8%
45–54	10.4%	14.3%
55 and older	1.0%	22.7%
<b>Race-Ethnicity</b>		
African American	47.3%	12.8%
White	36.9%	66.9%
Latino	14.2%	14.4%
Asian Americans	0.6%	4.3%
Native Americans	0.9%	1.0%
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	93.4%	49.3%
Female	6.3%	50.7%
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Never Married	59.8%	28.2%
Divorced	15.5%	10.2%
Married	17.3%	58.6%
Widowed	1.1%	6.4%
<b>Education</b>		
Less than high school	39.7%	14.8%
High school graduate	49.0%	32.2%
Some college	9.0%	25.4%
College graduate (BA or higher)	2.4%	27.6%



# REACTION TO DEVIANCE

Of 272,000 prisoners released from U.S. prisons, what percentage were rearrested within three years?

*The rearrest rates of those who had been convicted of:*



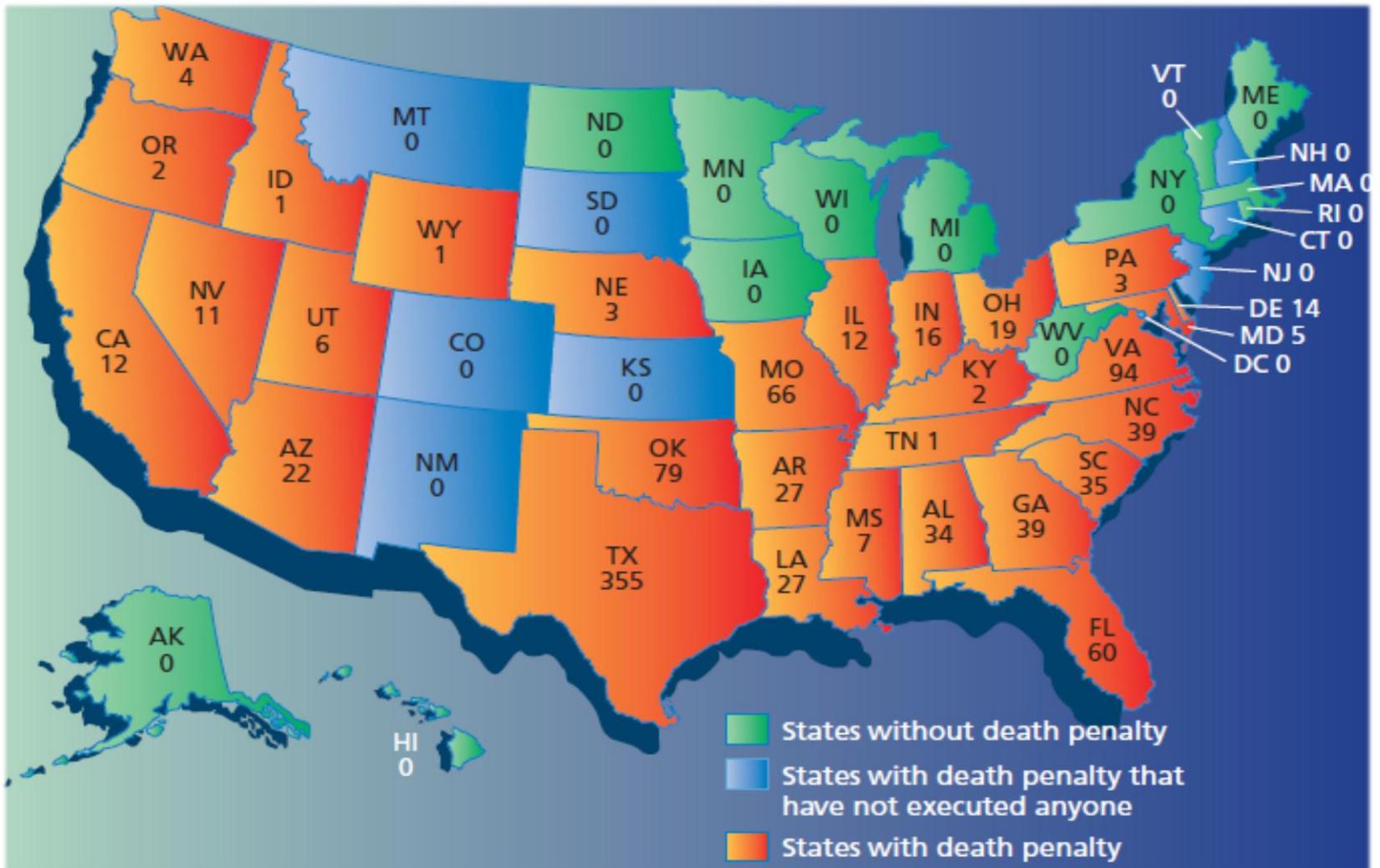


# REACTION TO DEVIANCE



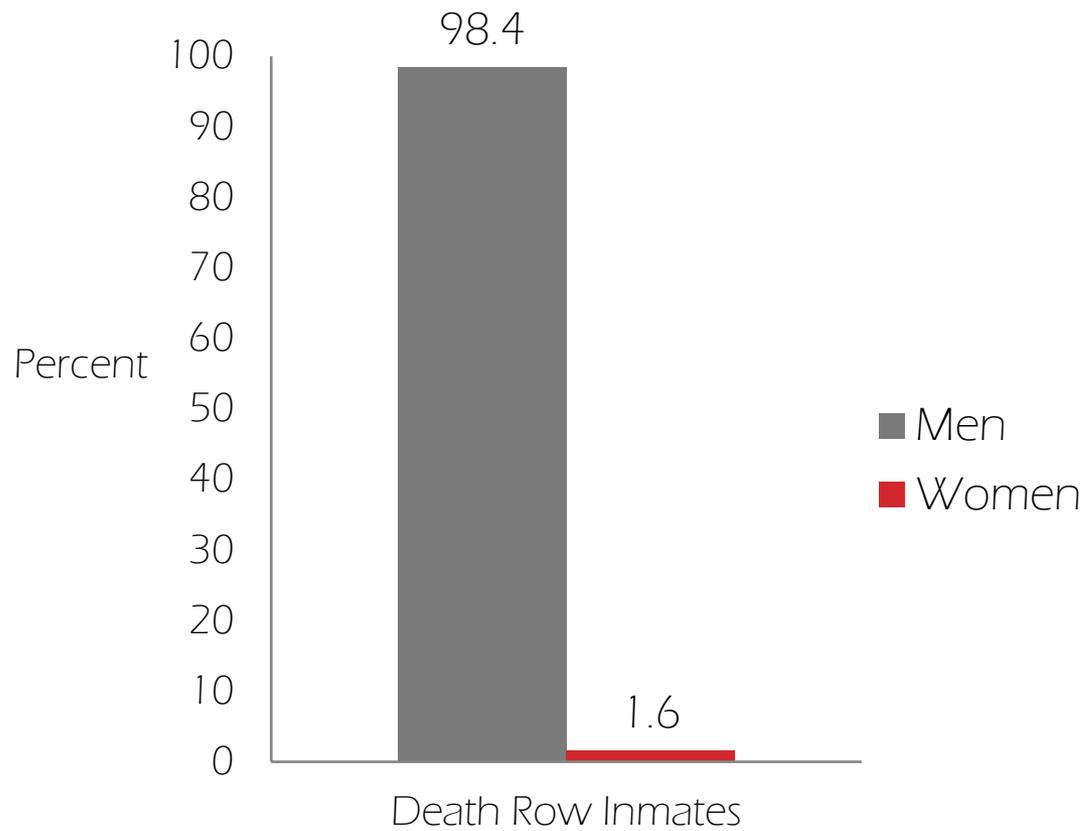


# REACTION TO DEVIANCE





# REACTION TO DEVIANCE





# REACTION TO DEVIANCE

Directed Against	Number of Victims
<b>Race-Ethnicity</b>	
African Americans	3,494
Whites	1,027
Latinos	646
Asian Americans	272
Native Americans	102
<b>Religion</b>	
Jews	1,086
Muslims	202
Catholics	68
Protestants	48
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	
Male Homosexual	902
Female Homosexual	213
Homosexuals (general)	314
Heterosexuals	32
Bisexual	18
<b>Disabilities</b>	
Mental	49
Physical	24

Hate Crimes



# REACTION TO DEVIANCE

Of all those arrested, what percentage are women?

Crime	1992	2004	Change
Car Theft	10.8%	17.1%	+58%
Burglary	9.2%	14.2%	+54%
Stolen Property	12.5%	18.6%	+49%
Aggravated Assault	14.8%	20.6%	+39%
Drunken Driving	13.8%	18.6%	+35%
Robbery	8.5%	11.0%	+29%
Arson	13.4%	16.2%	+21%
Larceny/Theft	32.1%	38.2%	+19%
Illegal Drugs	16.4%	18.9%	+15%
Forgery and Counterfeiting	34.7%	39.7%	+14%
Illegal Weapons	7.5%	8.2%	+9%
Fraud	42.1%	45.0%	+7%



# HOW DO NEW TECHNOLOGIES AFFECT DEVIANCE?



In Small Towns, Gossip Moves to the Web and  
Turns Vicious



# SOCIAL DEVIANCE

- **medicalization of deviance**: process by which human deviance comes to be defined and treated as a medical condition, and thus becomes the subject of medical study, diagnosis, prevention or treatment
- Thomas Szasz argues that mental illness is simply problem behaviors: some forms of mental illnesses have physical causes (depression caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain), while others are responses to troubles with various coping devices.
- Szasz's analysis suggests that social experiences, and not some illness of the mind, underlie bizarre behaviors.



# SOCIAL DEVIANCE

- Being mentally ill can sometimes lead to other problems like homelessness, but being homeless can lead to unusual and unacceptable ways of thinking that are defined by the wider society as mental illness.
- With deviance inevitable, one measure of society is how it treats its deviants. The larger issues are how to protect people from deviant behaviors that are harmful to their welfare, to tolerate those that are not, and to develop systems of fairer treatment for deviants.





THE END

