Topics Covered Today (see Blackboard)

In-Class Assignment #2 Feedback

Gang-related homicides:
  - *Bangin’ in Little Rock* Overview

Social structure & murder:
  - How is poverty related to murder?

Gun Control Policies
In-Class Assignment #2
1. **True or False:** According to Beegley, **anomie** refers to a lack of cultural values which opens the door to violence.

*81% responded True*

*19% responded False (correct answer)*
1. Beeghley begins Chapter 4 by discussing a book written by Messner and Rosenfeld, *Crime and the American Dream*. Why are American rates of homicide so high, according to this book?
1. Beeghley begins Chapter 4 by discussing a book written by Messner and Rosenfeld, *Crime and the American Dream*. Why are American rates of homicide so high, according to this book?

*value placed on material success encourages use of illegitimate strategies to obtain*
3. What is meant by the term, *the American Dream*?
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All citizens committed to the goal of material success under conditions of open competition
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*All citizens committed to the goal of material success under conditions of open competition*

*Economy dominates and affects other social institutions*
4. Define the concept *anomie*, and explain how it causes crime.
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*Anomie = lack of connection between cultural values and the legitimate means to achieve them*
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*Anomie = lack of connection between cultural values and the legitimate means to achieve them*

- some will use illegitimate means
4. Define the concept anomie, and explain how it causes crime.

Anomie = lack of connection between cultural values and the legitimate means to achieve them

- some will use illegitimate means

- some will express free-floating anger against others
5. To what extent does Beeghley agree with Messner and Rosenfeld’s theory of anomie and murder?
5. To what extent does Beeghley agree with Messner and Rosenfeld’s theory of anomie and murder?

*anomie does not explain high rate of murder*
5. To what extent does Beeghley agree with Messner and Rosenfeld’s theory of anomie and murder?

anomie does not explain high rate of murder
- most homicides are NOT economically motivated
- quality of life better in the U.S. than any other country
2. A) In analyzing today’s documentary, which cultural or structural factor offers a more convincing explanation of youth involvement in gang-related violence in low-income neighborhoods?

- 24% Family
- 21% Cultural (unspecified)
- 17% Structural (unspecified)
- 13% Economic Stratification
- 10% Social Institutions (unspecified)
- 5% Education
2. **A)** In analyzing today’s documentary, which cultural or structural factor offers a more convincing explanation of youth involvement in gang-related violence in low-income neighborhoods?

- 24% *Family*
- 21% *Cultural (unspecified)*
- 17% *Structural (unspecified)*
- 13% *Economic Stratification*
- 10% *Social Institutions*
- 5% *Education*
# Cultural & Structural Concepts *(last week)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>Structure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norms</td>
<td>Social Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Values</td>
<td>- family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socialization</td>
<td>- economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stratification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. **B)** How could the factor listed in Part A be addressed or changed in an effort to reduce youth violence?

- **21%**  *Education*
- **18%**  *Emotional Connections*
- **18%**  *Social Involvement*
- **17%**  *Parents/Family*
- **9%**    *Social Structure*
- **6%**    *Jobs*
### Question 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part A</th>
<th>Part B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>24%</strong> Family</td>
<td><strong>21%</strong> Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21%</strong> Cultural</td>
<td><strong>18%</strong> Connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>17%</strong> Structural</td>
<td><strong>18%</strong> Social Involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13%</strong> Stratification</td>
<td><strong>17%</strong> Parents/Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10%</strong> Social Institutions</td>
<td><strong>9%</strong> Social Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5%</strong> Education</td>
<td><strong>6%</strong> Jobs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gang-Related Homicides
Gang-related homicides comprise a small proportion of juvenile murders.
Gang-Related Homicides

Gang homicides comprise a small proportion of juvenile murders.

Gang homicides are representative of “typical” murder.
Gang-Related Homicides

Characteristics of Perpetrators/Victims

Male
Young
Poor
African-American
Gang-Related Homicides

Characteristics of Perpetrators/Victims

Male
Young
Poor
African-American

Live in urban communities
High school dropouts
Prior arrest records
Gang-Related Homicides

Characteristics of Gang Homicides

Acquaintance murder
Handguns
Alcohol abuse
Gang-Related Homicides

Characteristics of Gang Homicides

- Acquaintance murder
- Handguns
- Alcohol abuse
- Drug-related transactions
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview

Structural Factors

Lack of legitimate, stable jobs
- monetary benefits of gang activity
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview

Structural Factors

Lack of legitimate, stable jobs
- monetary benefits of gang activity

Inequality (stratification)
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview

**Structural Factors**

Lack of legitimate, stable jobs
- monetary benefits of gang activity

Inequality (stratification)

Gangs as a “substitute” for family
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview

Structural Factors

EDUCATION?
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview

Cultural Factors

Attitudes that condone violence
- toughness
- revenge & retribution
- lack of remorse
**Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview**

**Cultural Factors**

Attitudes that condone violence
- toughness
- revenge & retribution
- lack of remorse

Fear & paranoia
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview

Cultural Factors

Attitudes that condone violence
- toughness
- revenge & retribution
- lack of remorse

Fear & paranoia

Violence as a means of problem-solving
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview

Cultural Factors

Attitudes that condone violence
- toughness
- revenge & retribution
- lack of remorse

Fear & paranoia

Violence as a means of problem-solving

How is the general public different?
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview

What has happened since 1993?

1994-2000
gang-related homicide rate dropped
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview

What has happened since 1993?

1994-2000

gang-related homicide rate dropped

Why? state & local funding for after-school programs
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview

What has happened since 1993?

2001- now

State & local funding has declined
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview

What has happened since 1993?

2001 - now

Gang-motivated homicide rate still low
*(retaliation drive-by shootings)*
Bangin’ in Little Rock Overview

What has happened since 1993?

2001- now

Gang-motivated homicide rate still low
(retaliation drive-by shootings)

Gang-related homicide rate increasing
(drug-related)
Gangs have existed in cities like L.A., New York, Chicago & Boston for more than a century.
Urban Gang-Related Homicide Trends

Gangs have existed in cities like L.A., New York, Chicago & Boston for more than a century.

Movement of gangs into other communities is largely related to the distribution of illicit drugs.
Gangs have existed in cities like L.A., New York, Chicago & Boston for more than a century.

Movement of gangs into other communities is largely related to the distribution of illicit drugs.

crack cocaine → crystal meth
Urban Gang-Related Homicide Trends

Why is gang violence deadlier today?
Urban Gang-Related Homicide Trends

Why is gang violence deadlier today?

- culture of violence has remained constant
Urban Gang-Related Homicide Trends

Why is gang violence deadlier today?

- Culture of violence has remained constant

- Slow structural changes: education & employment
Urban Gang-Related Homicide Trends

Why is gang violence deadlier today?

- culture of violence has remained constant

- slow structural changes: education & employment

- use of weapons has changed significantly:
  - fist fights → knives → handguns & assault weapons
Gang-Related Homicides (Fox, pg. 88)

**Figure 5.2** Gang-Related Homicides, 1976–2005 Combined
Gang-Related Homicides (Fox, pg. 88)

FIGURE 5.3  Teen Homicide Offenders by Weapon, 1976–2005
How are Poverty & Race Related to Murder?

SOCIAL STRUCTURE & MURDER
How are Poverty & Race Related to Murder?

1) How is economic inequality related to murder?

2) How are the types of jobs available to people related to murder?

3) Is social class or race more important in explaining disparities in murder?
Poverty Statistics

10% of population lives below the poverty line

42% of single mothers live below poverty line

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># Persons in Household</th>
<th>Annual Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$10,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
How Is Poverty Related to Murder?


Where are the poorest communities in the United States?
How Is Poverty Related to Murder?

Where are the poorest communities in the United States?

Rural communities.
Rural Poverty

Appalacia = 1,000 mile long area

65% live below poverty line
Appalachian Children
How Is Poverty Related to Murder?

Why do urban communities have higher murder rates than poor rural communities?
How Is Poverty Related to Murder?

Why do urban communities have higher murder rates than poor rural communities?

High rates of inequality (stratification).
Poverty & Inequality

Poverty + Low Inequality = Low Murder Rates
Poverty & Inequality

Poverty + High Inequality = High Murder Rates
# Urban Poverty

## Poorest Cities in U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Urban Poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poorest Cities in U.S.</th>
<th>Detroit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>21% unemployment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>35% live below poverty line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>Average home worth $18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Detroit Neighborhoods
Inequality in U.S.: Pyramid of Power

WEALTH

ELITE
1% POP
72.7% WEALTH

UPPER
9% POP
22.6% WEALTH

MIDDLE-LOWER-UNDER
90% POP
4.7% WEALTH

POPULATION
Two Wealthiest Men in U.S.

Bill Gates ($58 billion)  
Warren Buffet ($62 billion)
Salary Disparities

Average CEO v. Average Worker

40 years ago: $35 : 1
Salary Disparities

Average CEO v. Average Worker

40 years ago: $35 : 1

Today: $450 : 1
How Is Poverty Related to Murder?


How are the types of jobs available to people related to murder?
## Labor Stratification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Sector</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skilled labor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More job security</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Labor Stratification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Sector</th>
<th>Secondary Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skilled labor</td>
<td>Unskilled (Semi-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>Hourly wages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>No benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More job security</td>
<td>Less job security</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Labor Stratification

Primary Sector

Secondary Sector
Labor Stratification

Primary Sector Jobs

Low Murder Rates
Labor Stratification

Secondary Sector Jobs → High Murder Rates
The Truly Disadvantaged (1987)

The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy

“A provocative analysis of the black underclass and a radical proposal for easing its plight.”
—Jack E. White, Time
How are Poverty & Race Related to Murder?

Is social class or race more important in explaining the high rate of homicide for African-Americans today?
South Chicago Housing Projects

1% of city’s population

11% of city’s homicides

10% of other violent crimes
Emergence of the **Black Urban Underclass**

- Slavery
- Abolition of Slavery
- World War II
- Civil Rights Movement
- Emergence of Underclass
Slavery thru Abolition (1607 – 1865)

Race = Social Class
World War II (1942 - 45)

Mass migration from rural south to urban north for skilled labor jobs
Civil Rights Movement (1955 - 75)

POLITICAL CHANGES:

New opportunities ➔
Upward mobility
(for some)
Emergence of *Urban Underclass* (1970s)

**ECONOMIC CHANGES:**

- Loss of skilled labor
- Emergence of *underclass*
- *the declining significance of race*
African-American Men

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & INCARCERATION
(2006 NATIONAL STUDY)
African-American Men

5 million black men ages 20-39

Inner-Cities

50% did not finish high school
African-American Men

5 million black men ages 20-39

Inner-Cities

72% high school dropouts in their 20s were jobless
African-American Men

5 million black men ages 20-39

Inner-Cities

72% high school dropouts in their 20s were jobless
- 34% white men in 20s
- 19% Hispanic men in 20s
  - dropout rates as bad or worse but not related to unemployment or crime
African-American Men

5 million black men ages 20-39

Inner-Cities

21% in their 20s who did not attend college were incarcerated
African-American Men

5 million black men ages 20-39

Inner-Cities

21% in their 20s who did not attend college were incarcerated

By mid-30s, 6 in 10 high school dropouts had spent time in prison
African-American Men

5 million black men ages 20-39

Inner-Cities

High school dropouts in their late 20s, more are in prison (34%) than are working (30%)
African-American Men

Incarceration rates climbed steeply during 1980s
- political shift to harsher punishments
  (crack epidemic)
- black men most likely to be arrested
African-American Men

Incarceration rates climbed steeply during 1980s
- political shift to harsher punishments
  (crack epidemic)
- black men most likely to be arrested

Men with criminal records shunned by employers
- young black men with clean records suffer by association
Concluding Remarks
Inequality, more than poverty, is related to murder.
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Secondary sector labor jobs, more than unemployment, are related to murder.
Concluding Remarks

Inequality, more than poverty, is related to murder.

Secondary sector labor jobs, more than unemployment, are related to murder.

Social class, more than race, is related to murder.
In-Class Assignment #3
In-Class Assignment #3

Work in groups of 2 or 3. Include name & last 4 digits of student ID. USE A FULL SHEET OF PAPER.

Beeghley Study Questions 6 & 7

6. What five factors explain the high base rate of homicide in the United States, according to Beeghley?

7. In discussing guns versus other weapons, what does Beeghley mean when he says that “a gun requires less psychological commitment in use?”