

Aggression

Is it aggression?

- A murderer is executed under a state's capital punishment law.
- A father spans his disobedient 6-year-old.
- A pitcher hits a batter on the arm with a pitch.
- A woman shoots mace at her would-be rapist.
- A frustrated wife yells at her "messy slob of a husband."
- A professor lowers a student's grade on a late paper.
- A teenager tells his proud little sister that her art is "dumb and ugly."
- A man passes along rumors about his rival's sexual transgressions.

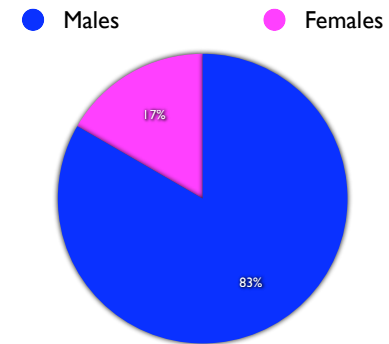
- Aggression
- Hostile aggression
- Instrumental aggression

Biological and Cultural Influences

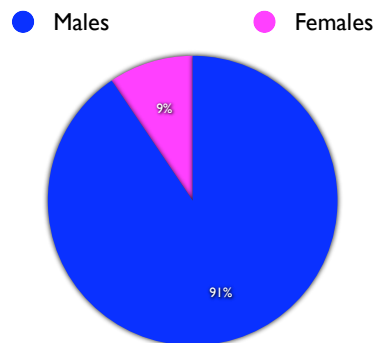
Biological influences

- The evolutionary argument
- Testosterone
- Serotonin
- The amygdala

Correctional Population



Homicide Offenders



Finger Length

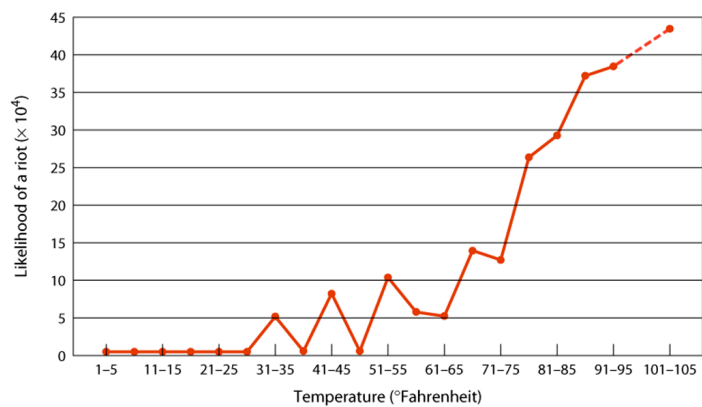
- 2D:4D ratio
- Men: smaller 2D:4D ratio
- More masculine ratio = prenatal testosterone exposure
- More masculine ratio = dominance, physicality, aggression

Biological influences

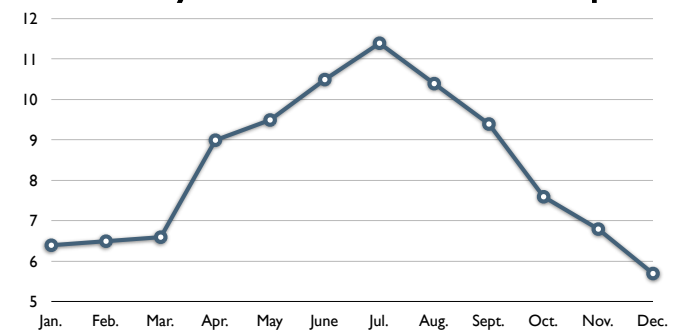
- The evolutionary argument
- Testosterone
- Serotonin
- The amygdala

Other biological/physical influences

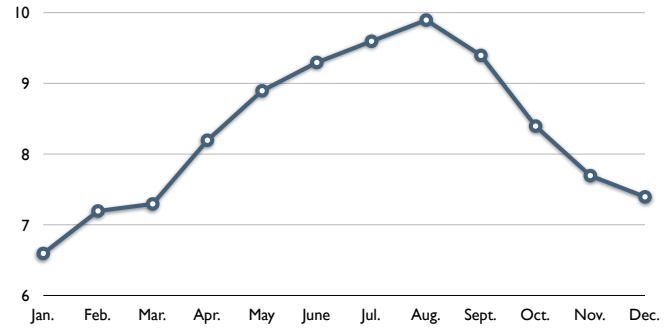
- Alcohol
- Pain
 - Azrin (1967)
- Heat



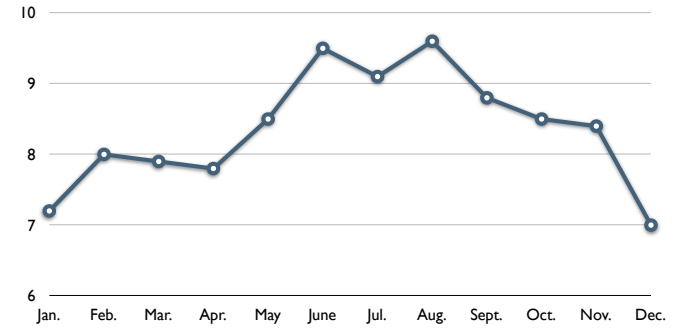
Monthly Distribution of Rapes



Monthly Distribution of Assaults



Monthly Distribution of Spousal Abuse



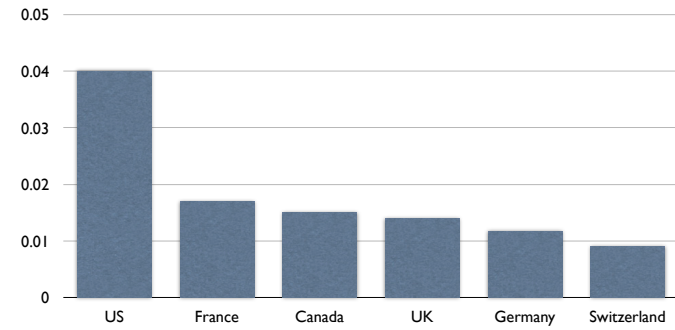
Also: Experimental evidence

Frustration-Aggression

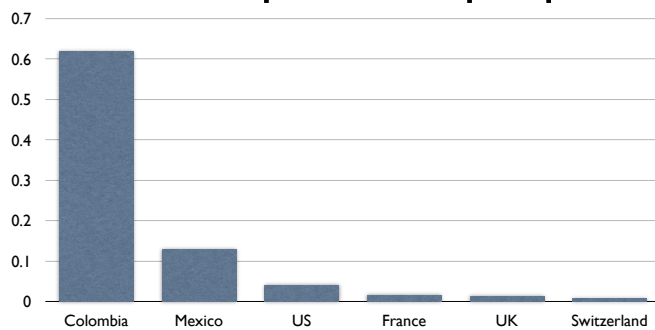
Cultural Influences

- National differences
- Differences over time
- Regional differences

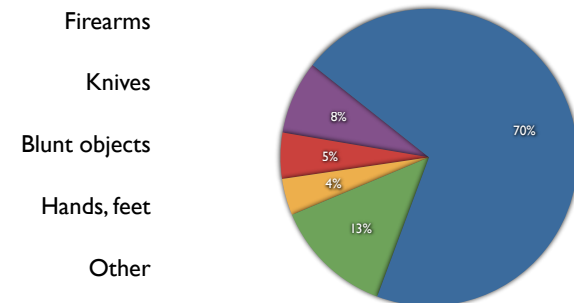
Murders per 1000 people

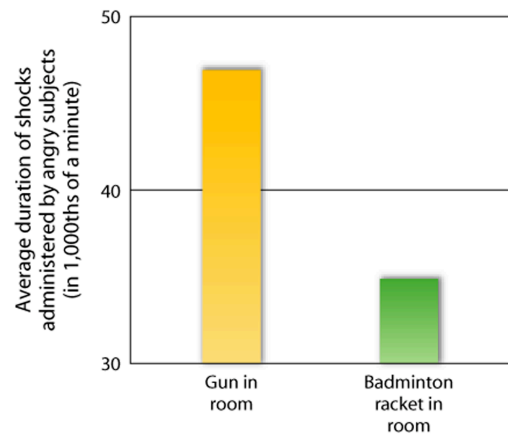


Murders per 1000 people



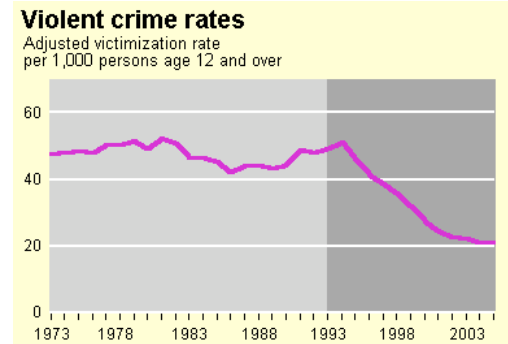
Weapons used to Murder in US (1993)

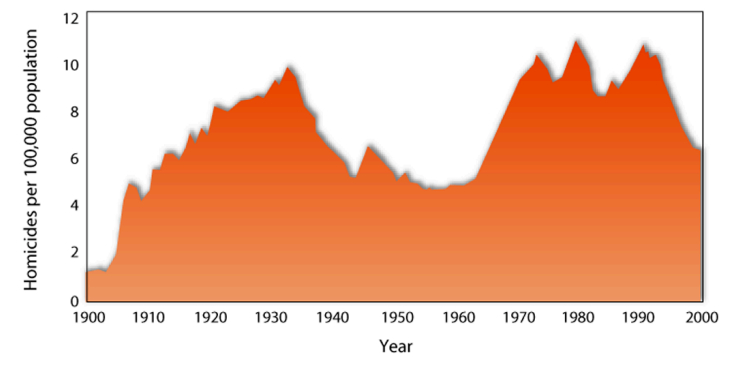
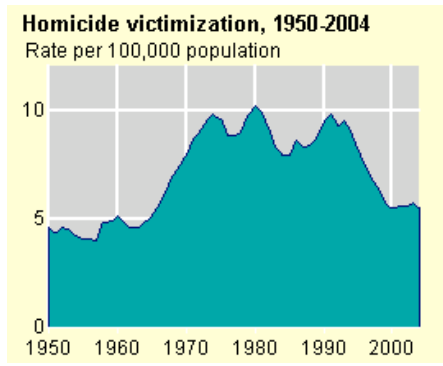




Guns Violence
 Guns Violence
 Culture
 Guns Violence

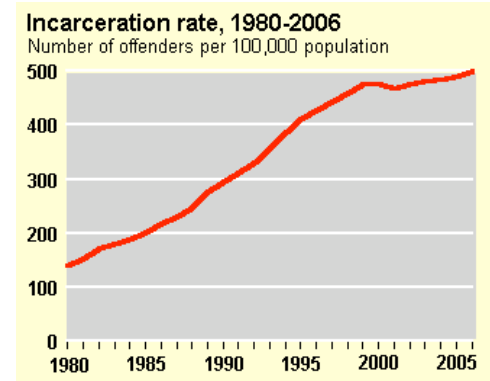
Crime is down!



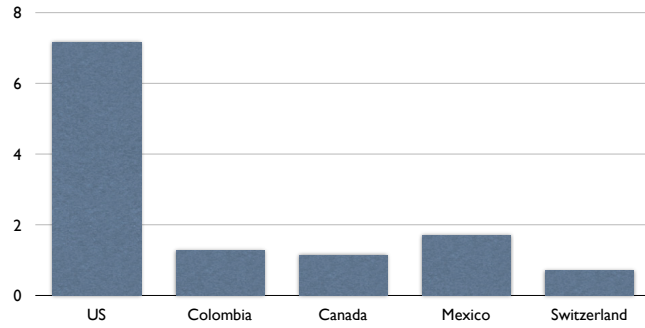


Why is crime down?

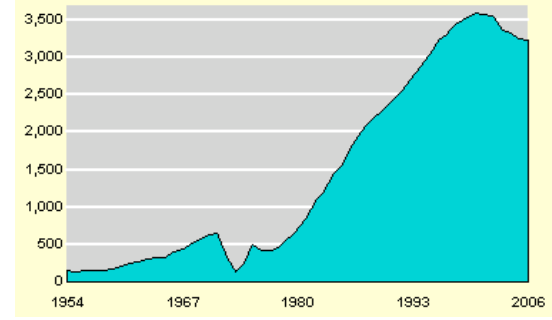
- Abortion?
- Lead?
- Increased incarceration?



Prisoners per 1000 people

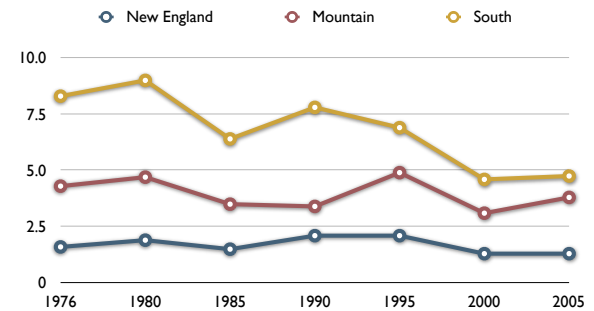


Prisoners on death row, 1954-2006

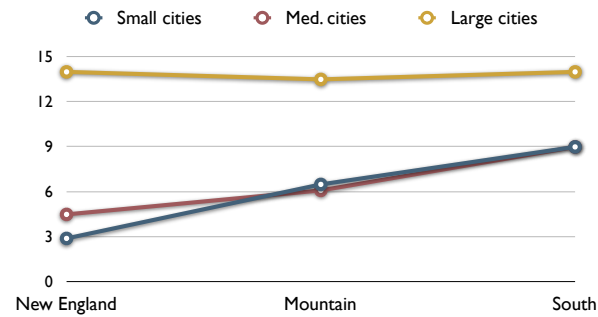


The South and the "Culture of Honor"

Homicide rates



White homicide offenders



Self-esteem

- Low self-esteem = aggression?
- **Not true**
- Egotism/narcissism
- Ego threat

Media violence and aggression

- Weakens inhibitions. *If they can do it, so can I.*
- Imitation. *Oh, so that's how you do it!*
- Primes aggression. *Those feelings I am having must be real anger rather than simply a stressful day.*
- Desensitizes. *Ho-hum, another brutal beating; what's on the other channel?*
- Biases perception. *I had better get him before he gets me!*

The Bobo Doll Study



Item viewed	Seen on TV (%)	Real World (%)
Female	33	51
Married	10	61
Blue collar	25	67
Having a religious affiliation	6	88
Beverages: percent alcoholic	45	16

Catharsis

- “Venting” = Less aggression?
- **Not true**
- Venting = more aggression
- Apology, forgiveness