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Activity: Media

Forms of social control

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- evaluate 'smarter crime control' methods.

Using the link below, complete questions 1 to 23 that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgVorJJa2cM>

1. What does the clip tell us about homicide rates in the USA?
2. How do the homicide rates among young men vary between Chicago and Toronto?
3. How many people were incarcerated in the USA when the clip was made?
4. How does the rate of incarceration in the USA compare to the world average and the average in Canada or Germany?
5. According to Waller, in what way do most Americans think violence should be dealt with?
6. According to Waller, how can you create an experiment to determine if a solution to violence is effective?
7. What does the evidence from experiments in America tell us about policing?
8. What proportion of the money spent on policing in America goes to responding to 911 (emergency) calls? Why is this not effective in preventing violence?
9. What does Waller suggest about the money spent on investigating crime?
10. Briefly explain the 'stop and frisk' policy. Who does it target and for what crimes?
11. According to Waller, what does work to prevent crime and violence in 'problem places'?
12. According to Waller, who delivers the programmes that are successful in reducing crime and violence?
13. As well as in 'problem places', where else is there too much violence in America?
14. According to Waller, what can be done to help prevent sexual assault and date rape among young people?
15. What proportion of women graduates in America have been victim of a sexual assault? How might this be reduced?
16. Briefly explain how Waller suggests we can get 'smarter crime control'.
17. What did the city of Glasgow do to help reduce crime?
18. According to Waller, how much money has been taken from policing in the UK and what has been the impact?
19. How much money could be saved in the USA if they used 'smarter crime control' methods?
20. What would be the impact of this on crime?
21. How much money could be saved in the USA by decreasing levels of incarceration and by legalising marijuana?
22. Other than the savings, what are the overall benefits of 'smarter crime control'?
23. Why does this message need to reach politicians?