Violent Crime

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People presume that the vicinity of an individual affects how they behave in regards to criminal indulgence. For instance, some people argue that if the area or neighborhood of an individual is closely allied to high-crime activities, the person likely to commit violent crime. It is however, worth noting that this is not always the case because many citizens live in impoverished and high-crime areas yet they refrain from engaging in criminal activities. The current paper addresses various aspects correlated with criminal activities based on a number of questions.

**Rates of violence in the United States, Canada and Germany**

In my opinion, the rates of violence in the United States are higher than other nations. Despite the reports of 2014 that postulated decreased rates of violence in the United States, I feel that the rates are still high. Indeed, the rate of aggravated assault, murder, rape and robbery still causes devastated havoc in the United States compared to other nations. The reported cases of violent crimes, according to Koch (2016), were about 383 in 2014. Out of the reported cases, aggravated assault depicted the highest percentage with 63.6. Murder cases had the least numbers of cases with 1.2 percent of the violent cases reported that year (Miller, 2016).

Therefore, although other countries such as Germany and Canada depict cases of violent crimes, the rates of crime are not that high. Canada, for instance, has reported decreased rates of crimes for the last one decade. Its rates of crime dropped by 1.8 million in 2014 (Miller, 2016). Overly, there is a drop in the rate of criminal activities in the western nations. Interestingly, Germany has fewer cases of violent crimes compared to the United States. Indeed, according to Koch (2016), the rates of violent crime in the United States from 2014-2016 has been higher by 25 percent compared to the number of violent crime cases experienced in Germany. It is worth noting that US ranks 1st in regards to capital punishment with German ranking fourth. Additionally, the rate of murder and rape in the United States is higher than Germany (Miller, 2016).

**Why high rates of violent crimes in the US compared to Canada and Germany?**

A number of factors have led to increased rates of violence crimes in the United States. Firstly, the high rates of murder in the United States can be correlated to issue of gun control. Acquiring a gun in the United States is much easier than in German and Canada. Secondly, some people have been marginalized and the rate of financial challenges and poverty experienced make them engage in violent activities such as robberies and theft.

**Challenges experienced while comparing the crime rates**

Comparing the rates of violent crimes amongst the three countries was challenging because the data in some years was not consistent. Additionally, there are differences in ages of the people who commit crimes in the three countries. Combining all those facets and analyzing the data to understand the country with highest rates of violent crimes was not easy. Additionally, violent crimes involve aggravated assault, murder, rape and robbery. Comparing data for the aforementioned tasks was also challenges because most reports classify the data differently.

**Economic and social factors differentiating US, Canada and Germany**

The social values instilled in family settings in the United States are low. Moral standards are based on the structure of families in the society. This has not been affective in the US compared to the other two countries. The social media, televisions and some of the movies watched have also promoted violent crime in the US. For instance, watching violent scenarios make children become used to them. Indeed, by watching violent movies, children become immune to violent activities and normalize the issues allied to violent crime. Financial challenges and peer pressure in the United States however, contribute to increased rates of robbery compared to the other two countries. The youths are used to committing violent crimes because their peers do it. The justice court systems have also not been vigilant enough in handling violent crimes compared to the other industrialized nations. Other factors that have contributed to increased rates of criminal activities include drug abuse, poverty among the youths, unemployment and under employment.

**Criminal theory explaining the high rates of violent crime in the United States**

Differential association explains the increased rates of criminal activities in the United States. As discussed above, the youth in the United States are used to witnessing violent crimes in their vicinity. As a result, nothing matters much. Indeed, they have normalized everything because they do not see big deal in violent crimes. Differential theory, according to Koch (2016), depicts that the behavior of an individual is based on motives, values and attitudes of the people who surround them. Peer pressure therefore plays a big role in the life of an individual. Accordingly, most criminals cannot commit crimes on their own but tend to do so when under the influence of others or drugs (Miller, 2016).

Methinks commit crimes yet they live within low-crime neighborhood because the laws in those areas are not severe enough. Additionally, there could be moral decadency and lack of right role models in the vicinity. People in high crime areas may refrain from crime because the inherent punishment for such crimes is very severe that they cannot afford to become victims. Low number of people indulged in violent crimes while living in high-crime areas does not necessarily mean that the environment does not influence the criminal behavior of an individual. The environment affects individual’s criminal behavior via peer pressure and the desire to live in.

**Feedbacks for the posts**

**Post by Marjorie Brooks**

I agree with Brooks that the rate of crimes in the United States have been high. News watched in the television depicts the violence inherent in the country. Additionally, it we undeniably true that the rates of violent crimes in the United States are low compared to the US.

Marjorie also notes the increased rate of violent crimes in England over time. It is however, true that the rate violent crimes in the US are still high compared to both England and Canada. I also like the way Marjorie addressed the factors that have led to increased rates of criminal activities in the US.

However, Marjorie failed to offer enough data and information concerning violent crimes in amongst the three countries. This would have offered a comprehensive view of the differences therein. Additionally, in my view the post was not comprehensive because it did not cover all the required content. For instance, the post did not discuss the economic and social facets that differentiate the United States from the other selected countries.

**Post by Gary Salmon**

I agree with Salmon that the rate of violent crime in the US is high compared to both Canada and Germany. Salmon offers data allied to criminal activities for the three countries. It is undeniably true that Canada has been experiencing reduced rates of crimes for the last eight years.

I also liked the way the author of the post addressed the factors that have led to increased rates of crimes in the United States. Different researchers such as Miller (2016), agree that poverty, financial challenges, drug abuse, ineffectiveness of the police as well as punishments, which are not severe.

Generally, Salmon has covered comprehensively every aspects required in the post. Information and data in regards to violent crime in the three countries is also accurate. I therefore, feel that everything information in the post was up to standard, notwithstanding some minor grammatical errors in the post.

References

Koch, B. (2016). US-Drones Strikes: Acts of Terror, Violence, or Coercion?. In *State Terror, State Violence* (pp. 151-170). Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden.

Miller, L. L. (2016). *The Myth of Mob Rule: Violent Crime and Democratic Politics*. Oxford University Press.