

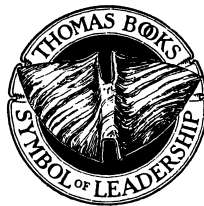
MALE CRIME AND DEVIANCE

MALE CRIME AND DEVIANCE

Exploring Its Causes, Dynamics, and Nature

By

R. BARRI FLOWERS



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To the future study of crime, criminals, and victims.

*And to my parents,
Johnnie Sr. and Marjah Al,
along with my partner in life, love, and happiness,
H. Loraine.*

PREFACE

Serious and violent crime has seen a recent rise in this country. This is attributed to, among other things, a depressed economy, the release of more prisoners back into society, access to firearms, and the growth in the teenage population—typically the age group responsible for much of the crime. A number of highly publicized intrafamilial homicides, mass murders, terrorist attacks, and school shootings have further put the focus squarely on crime and violence, prevention, ways to identify offenders, and tough new laws in getting criminals off the street.

Males are primarily responsible for the vast majority of serious crimes. This is reflected in arrest and prisoner data, self-report surveys, and studies on patterns and prevalence of criminal activity. The much greater criminality of males over females for most violent, property, and drug offenses is believed by many criminologists to be due to a variety of sociological and cultural factors and influences. The role of masculinity has been examined in relation to male crime and violence. Some blame biological and psychological variables for male crime and violence. In particular, testosterone has been related in a number of studies to male aggression and violent behavior. Current criminological research often takes a multidisciplinary approach in combining biological, psychological, sociological, and cultural perspectives in the study of criminality.

Male Crime and Deviance: Exploring Its Causes, Dynamics, and Nature seeks to explore in-depth the types of offenses most identified with and committed by males, dynamics of male crime, characteristics of male offenders, how male criminality and delinquency compare with and differ from female delinquent and criminal behavior, explanations for male crime, and efforts at combating crime in this country.

The book is written for undergraduate and graduate level students for coursework in criminal justice, criminology, male aggression, violent behavior, homicide, youth studies, gang studies, delinquency, law, law enforcement, sociology, social science, psychology, biology, and related areas of study. Further, it is intended for general reading by academicians, social scientists, psy-

chologists, law officers, medical workers, and laypersons with a vested interest in antisocial behavior and its implications on society.

I offer my thanks to Charles C Thomas for their consistent and excellent contribution to the body of criminology textbooks, including two of my previous works to that effect. *Male Crime and Deviance* will continue that tradition and, no doubt, be an important text in the study of and debate on male antisocial behavior and its implications on society.

Finally, my heart, soul, and undying gratitude go out to my longtime devoted assistant and wife, H. Loraine Flowers. Without her patience, understanding, professionalism, talent, and love, this book would never have been written.

R.B.F.

INTRODUCTION

The study of crime and criminals has traditionally been of either a general (or presumed male) nature or focused on females or juvenile offenders. Male criminality has been implicitly or explicitly examined in terms of overall or total criminal behavior. While this approach allows us some perspective on the male criminal offender, it often tends to make all crime synonymous with male deviance. Although males are responsible for the vast majority of serious, violent, and chronic criminality, their motives, means, precursors, and biological, psychological and/or sociological-cultural correlates of deviant behavior do not necessarily reflect the same conditions that may account for female deviance. Furthermore, adult male offenders are typically unlike juvenile offenders in many respects in terms of criminality and motivating factors, though in other ways they are similar in patterns of offenses and precursors to committing crimes. Differences and similarities also exist within racial and ethnic groups of male offenders, as well as between male and female criminals and delinquents.

In *Male Crime and Deviance*, male antisocial behavior is comprehensively examined through various aspects and dimensions, including in comparison with female deviance. It recognizes the distinct dynamics, nature, and characteristics of male aggression, crime, violence, and delinquency, while exploring theories and correlates of male deviance; racial, ethnic, and age disparities; and different subpatterns and subgroups of male crime, violence, and offenders. Legislative efforts at curbing serious and violent offending and increasing penalties against those convicted of such crimes are also discussed.

Particular attention is given to exploring the relationship between male aggression and masculinity, as well as the role testosterone and other biological factors play in male crime and violence. The book also focuses on the correlations between male violence and aggressive behavior and firearms, violence involving intimates, male sexual violence, bias crimes, workplace violence, terrorism, male perpetrated sexual offenses, youth gang crimes, and school violence. These areas of male criminality and deviance are examined within the context of all male offending, arrest, self-report, and inmate data,

along with criminological theoretical approaches to understanding the causes and related factors of male deviant behavior.

The book is divided into seven parts in studying the problem of male crime and deviance in American society. Part I discusses biological, psychological, sociological, and cultural and masculinity theories on aggression, crime, and violence, as well as correlates of male deviance.

Part II explores the dynamics of male crime and violent behavior, including racial and ethnic differences, arrest patterns, and characteristics of male inmates in adult and juvenile correctional facilities. Gender differences in criminal behavior are also examined. Part III focuses on male crimes of violence, including homicide, forcible rape, domestic violence, stalking, hate crimes, workplace violence, and terrorism.

Part IV examines property offenses, including robbery, motor vehicle theft, and carjacking. Part V addresses male sex offenses, including incest, child sexual abuse, the relationship between pornography and male violence, and prostitution-related crimes.

Part VI looks at the crime and violence of youth gangs, and school crime and violence. Part VII explores current federal legislation aimed at combating criminal and violent behavior in the United States. An extensive reference section can be found at the end of the book.

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MALE CRIME AND DEVIANCE

Part I

**EXPLAINING MALE CRIME AND
DEVIANCE**

Chapter 1

BIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORIES

Explanations into male crime and violence have their roots in biological and psychological theories. Biological perspectives have sought to explain male criminality in terms of genetic predisposition to commit crimes and delinquent acts. Much of the biological approaches to crime have been rejected for their biases and unscientific propositions. Recent biological research, such as that associating male aggression and violence with testosterone, has shown more promise in relating criminal behavior with some biological deficiencies, characteristics, or influences, often taking a multidisciplinary perspective in addressing crime.

Psychological theories on male criminality have explored the causes in terms of mental, emotional, and personality disorders. Like biological theories, the psychological school of thought has been problematic in its principles and reliability. Overall, psychological theories appear to be more accepted in criminology in explaining certain aspects of criminal behavior. Most experts agree that such theories tend to have more substance when used in conjunction with cultural and sociological theories (see Chapter 2).

BIOLOGICAL THEORIES ON CRIMINALITY

Early Biogenic Theories

Scientific criminology is believed to have originated with the work of Italian physician Cesare Lombroso. In his 1876 book, *L'Uomo Delinquente*, Lombroso proposed that some people are biologically predisposed to criminal behavior or born to commit crimes.¹ He believed criminals were a product of atavism or biological throwbacks to earlier genetic forms.