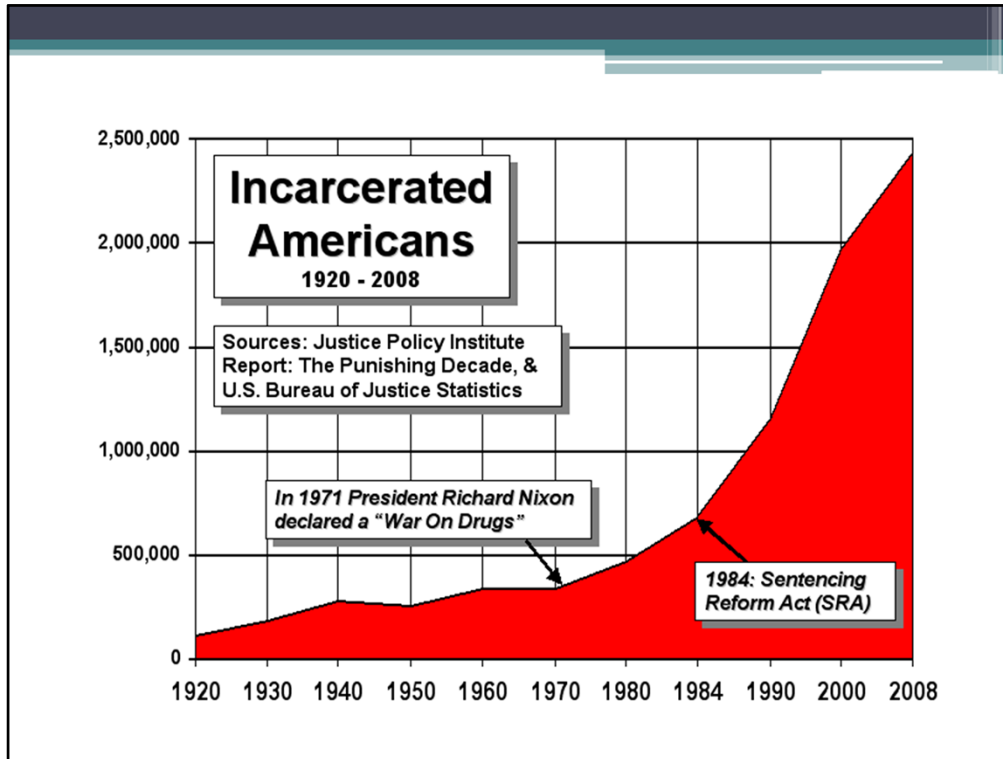
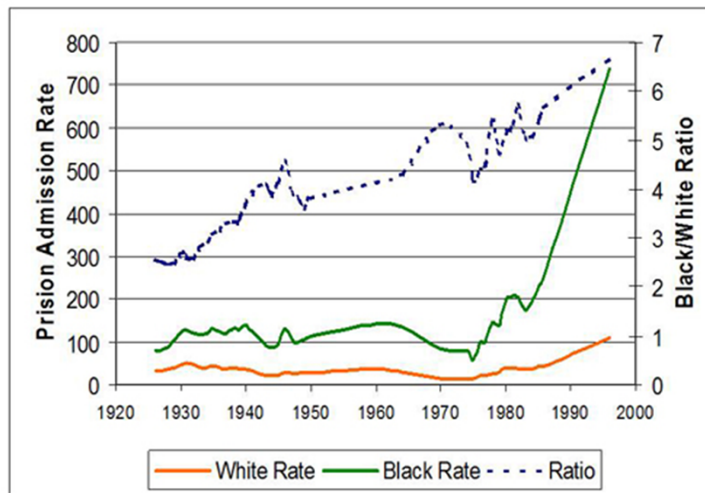


## Incarceration as a Turning Point (Part I)

Crime and the Life Course  
SOC 401D



## Black-White Ratio of Incarceration 1920-2000



## Black-White Disparities in Incarceration

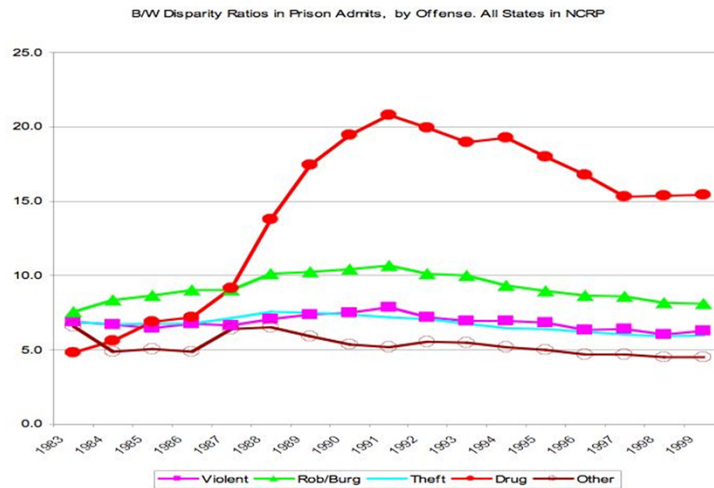
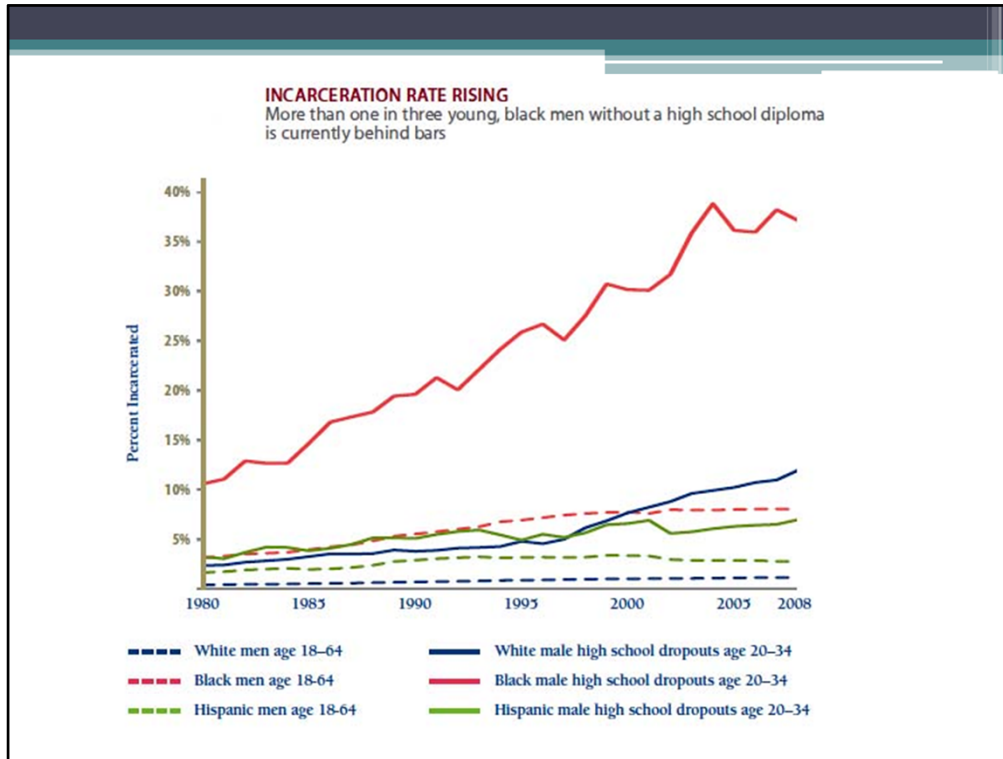
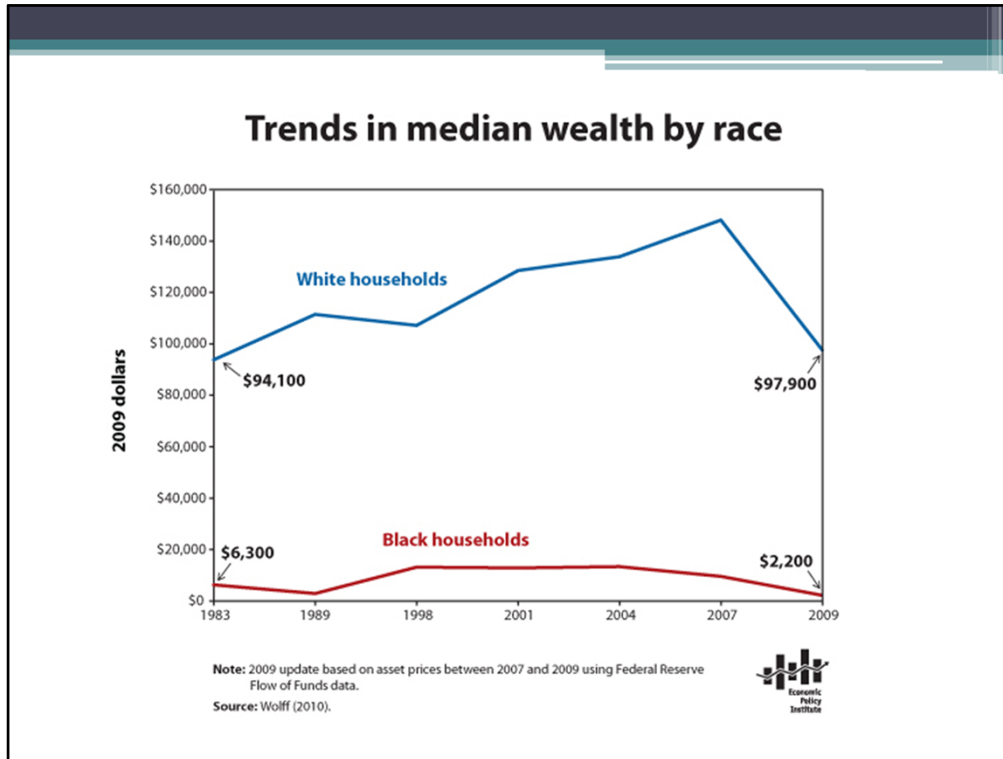


Chart shows ratio of Black to White rates of new prison sentences by offense group. Calculated by Pamela Oliver from National Corrections Reporting Program data on admissions to state prisons.





## Theoretical Framework: Braithwaite's Reintegrative Shaming

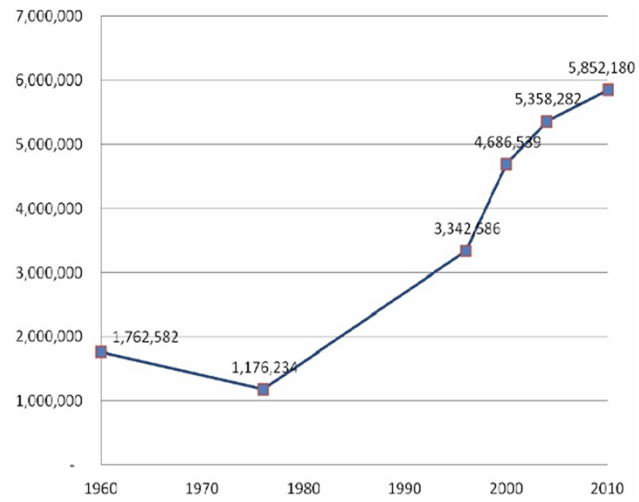
- Need to Avoid the Negative Effects of Labeling
  - Stigmatizing the offender
  - Cut offenders off from conventional society
- Alternative: Reintegrative Shaming
  - Shame the offender informally
    - Community expresses disapproval
    - Get the offender to repent
  - Forgive and forget
  - Reintegrate back to society
    - Restore individual rights of citizenship
    - Educational programs
    - Jobs programs
  - Restorative justice
- Ideal: Japanese Society

## Current Situation in the United States: Jobs

- Around 12 Million Felons of Working Age
- Difficult for Ex-Felons to Obtain Jobs
  - EEO & Civil Rights Laws prevent employment discrimination against felons when it results in a racial disparity.
    - Unless business necessity is shown
    - Typically, felons are barred from occupations requiring a license
    - Some states bar felons from certain jobs (e.g., health care); a few have barred felons from all public jobs
- Devah Pager: Audit Study
  - Felons significantly less likely to get a call back
  - Blacks significantly less likely to get a call back
- Result: Felons are unlikely to obtain steady employment



## Felony Disenfranchisement 1960-2010



## Civic Disenfranchisement

- About 5 million ex-felons in the US lack right to vote
  - Laws vary by states
    - Maine & Vermont: unrestricted voting rights to felons
    - 13 states: voting rights after incarceration is complete
    - Most states: voting rights returned after successful parole or probation
  - Disproportionately affects blacks
- Most western nations allow ex-felons to vote
- Uggen & Manza: Had felons been allowed to vote, several presidential and senatorial races would have reversed
  - Felons more likely to vote Democrat
  - Gore would have been President over Bush
  - Senate races would have gone Democrat in Texas (1978), Kentucky (1984, 1992), Florida (1988, 2004), Georgia (1992)
- Not represented in the political process
  - Inmate rights
  - Felony drug laws

## **Collateral Consequences: Families & Communities**

- Disproportionately affects lower class black families & communities
- Father absence
  - Fewer resources, role models
  - Children poorer health, more problems, delinquency
- Loss of community social capital
  - Loss of social ties (resources), collective efficacy
  - Loss of economic resources
  - Trade-off: criminality vs. positive resources