

Myth #1: Serial killers are everywhere.

Fact: People are murdered by serial killers, but this is not a common occurrence.



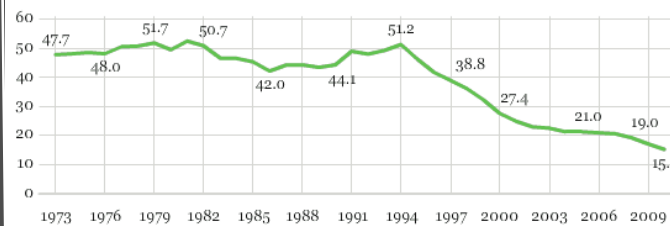
- ▶ 81% of all homicides involve one victim and one offender.
- ▶ 15% of homicides involve one victim and multiple offenders.

1%
of homicides
are committed
by serial
killers.

Myth #5: Crime rates are steadily increasing in the United States, especially violent crime.

Fact: Crime rates have been decreasing since the 1990s. Violent crime occurs much less compared to property crime.

U.S. Violent Crime Rate, U.S. Justice Department Statistics, 1973-2010
Number of victims per 1,000 population aged 12 or older

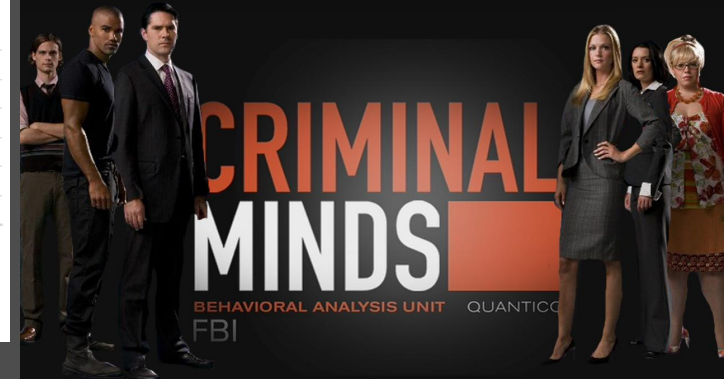


Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

GALLUP

Crime rates increased after World War II in the United States. For example, violent crime almost increased 4x between 1960 and 1990. In this same time period, property crime rates more than doubled. However, since the 1990s, crime in the United States has been decreasing steadily.

MYTHS OF CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



Many people in today's society have a false idea of crime trends and how the criminal justice system operates. One of the main reasons for this false belief is a result of the media's portrayal of crime through outlets such as the news and crime shows. This brochure is meant to provide you with accurate information regarding crime and how the criminal justice system actually operates.

By: Colby Strickland

Myth #2: Police investigations typically end with shootouts between the suspect and the police.

Fact: Overall, police shootings are not very common throughout the U.S.



- ▶ Of the 413,000 police officers in the United States in 2012:
 - ▶ 92 were killed in the line of duty.
 - ▶ 47 of these 92 were killed intentionally.

* Police agencies self-report officer shootings, so there is not a statistical way to measure exactly how many citizens are shot by police.



It takes **36 days** on average after an incident has occurred for an arrest to take place.

Myth #3: Evidence is easily obtained and quickly processed.

Fact: Tangible evidence is difficult to find and process, which typically causes this to be a long process.



- ▶ Biological evidence can take months to process.
 - ▶ 2/3 of the biological evidence collected from homicide crime scenes is analyzed.
 - ▶ Less than 1% of all serious crimes are solved using DNA.

- ▶ Surveillance cameras, on average, record 24-72 hours of footage before over-writing footage. As a result, investigators can lose evidence if they don't act quickly.



Myth #4: Almost all criminal cases are solved, and they typically are solved within 60 minutes.

Fact: Cases typically take time and often go unsolved.

According to crime shows, police solve approximately 97% of their cases. However, police solve approximately 40% of all of their cases.

