

How far do sociologists agree that females commit less crime than men?

Some sociologists agree that females commit less crime than men. Patterns of male and female crime differ, and they reflect differences in conventional gender roles.

The Criminal Statistics seems to show that there are a very small number of women who are convicted of criminal offences. Theft and handling goods are most common for both men and women; however, there are three times as many men than women that commit these offences. Some sociologists think that women commit less crime because of opportunity. Women tend to commit fewer crimes than men, so female offenders are seen as less of a problem for society. As a result, men get reported more and women will more likely to withdraw in the dark figure of crime. Most crimes committed by women seem to be of a comparatively trivial nature. Females regularly have less freedom and opportunity to commit crime than men. Men are often given more freedom, and then later on females take time to look after their children, do some housework and so on. Some sociologists challenge the statistics on crime.

Boys and girls are socialised differently. Girls are expected to be more passive, while boys are encouraged to be more active, tough and being able to defend themselves when necessary. These differences may make it more expected for boys to get into trouble by the police. Females are less likely to commit crime because of the closer levels of supervision (informal social control) that they are subjected to at home in childhood. This control carries on throughout life, with the role of women being more constrained than that of males. Oakley explains that, "boys and girls are canalised from birth by their parents into their gender roles" Such as boys are meant to wear blue whereas girls are meant to wear pink. Boys would be treated more callously than girls, such verbal appellations, meaning boys are meant to be hiding

their feeling rather than showing them. This might lead to back chat in proof of their showing the “manly” side.

Nevertheless, nowadays girls seem to have more freedom than before. They are now able to socialise almost as much as men do. This reason may be because of the media, even though some stereotypes may still be around, the media is changing the outlook of women. They are now portrayed as independent, ambitious, strong women, rather than just a housewife. The media has shown a positive side to the audience of today. Though, women may be independent and free, most of them yield in peer pressure, and like boys, girls are more increasingly beginning to form ‘gang cultures.’ The negative side of the media could be an influence to the ‘lad’ culture by showing celebs getting drunk, partying and having a good time and certain girls may look to them as role and possibly imitate their behaviour.

Some sociologists believe that police see crime differently when a woman commits it. In courts they might act more moderately especially in fewer serious crimes such as shoplifting, traffic offences and so forth. This is again because of the expectations of women and how women aren’t usually supposed to commit crime. They could think of a more logical reason such as shoplifting to feed their family. Yet, the theory ‘double deviance’ states that when women do more violent or serious crimes then the police or courts treat them more cruelly than men. Women committing crime shouldn’t be tolerable and is against the norms and values of society. Women are still known for looking after children and housework.

In conclusion, Women do commit less crime than men, however criminal statistics this may vary and do not show the true picture of female as it is often unreported or unrecorded. As for the societies contribution (contributory factor) things like the media, family and peers have influenced change, such as females being free

independent and having more opportunities for women and is not easy to change the extent of female crime.

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