

Twentieth
Century
1900-1999

In the second half of the 20th century reported crime rose steeply.

In the 20th Century about 5% of recorded crimes have involved violence or sexual assault.

But the ratio of murders to population has fallen in the last 100 years.

1880s - 15 murders per million

1984 - 11 murders per million

More people have to report burglaries for insurance purposes.

It is also easier to report crimes using the phone - The easier it is to report a crime the more crimes will be reported.

Policy has also changed so that the police **HAVE TO** record all reported crimes.

What does this mean?

What new crimes are occurring?

- Motor car crime
- Race, religion and hate crime
- Football hooliganism
- Cyber crime - Hacking etc.
- Drug crime - A new form of smuggling.

How did the police
change in the 20th
Century?

- Weapons - not armed with guns unless necessary but they do have some weapons i.e CS gas.
- Transport - police cars/helicopters
- DNA, Chemical analysis, fingerprints
- National police training college
- Telephones and 2 way radios
- National computer record
- Female officers

Courts

- Courts act of 1971 - ended local courts
- 1918 - women could vote = 1919 women on juries
- Juvenile courts
- Juries represent all sections of society
- Crown Prosecution Service = police bring people to court but from 1986 it was the role of the CPS

Why was there a
rise of juvenile
crime in the 20th
Century?

Parents have failed their
children

Car theft

Loss of community

Punishment is too slow/too soft

Drugs

Unemployment

Media

Poverty/inequality

Corporal Punishment

Physical punishment -
without executing

Corporal Punishment

- Whipping with a birch - done to criminals in prison
- Caning/slipper etc. in schools

How did prisons change?

Up to 1947

1896 Broadmoor hospital was opened to house mentally - ill prisoners.

In 1902 hard labour on the treadwheel and crank was abandoned.

1922 solitary confinement ended.

1922 onwards - diet, heating and conditions in cells gradually improved. Teachers employed in prisons in order to give prisoners better chance of finding a job.

1934 first open prison started.

After 1947 prison service came under strain - more people being imprisoned.

Average length of sentence was rising - 10 years now usual for violent offenders.

Proportion of offenders sent to prison for certain crimes increased significantly. i.e proportion of drunk drivers sent to prison in 1980s trebled.

Numbers in prison awaiting trial increased.

Overcrowding became a serious problem in 1980s. Leeds prison was designed to hold 624 in 1981 it housed 1200.

The reaction to this could have been to send less people to prison but there was a rise in fear of crime in the 1980s so the solution was to build more prisons.

Prison ships and private prisons were reintroduced. They housed mainly low risk offenders.

Problems with prisons.

Most prisoners reoffend - particularly young prisoners.

7/10 young prisoners commit more crime.

Cradles for crime - Young learn from older criminals or develop drug taking habits which leads to more crime.

Prison sentence does not deal with the personal or social problems that led to prisoners committing crime in the first place.

Very expensive to house and feed prisoners and staff prison.

Prisoners families need financial support from the government if they lose the family's breadwinner.

Execution had been the ultimate punishment in Britain for the 2500 year long study.

The **last execution** took place in 1964.

It was permanently **abolished** 1969.

THE END

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