How are Americans murdered?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weapon Type</th>
<th>Total Known</th>
<th>Firearms</th>
<th>Knife or Other Cutting Instrument</th>
<th>Other Weapon</th>
<th>Personal Weapon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,943</td>
<td>8,393</td>
<td>1,743</td>
<td>1,815</td>
<td>892</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profile Stop Studies</th>
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Illinois' Project Valkyrie (1987-97)
- Latinos < 8% of I population; 27% of searches
- Blacks < 15% of I, 23% of searches
- Cops ask to search Latinos' cars more than whites', but find lower % of contraband

Maryland State Police (1995-96)
- Blacks make up 16% of drivers on I-95 & 17.5% of traffic violators, but account for 72.8% of searches
- Whites: drivers, 76.8%; violators, 74.4%; searches, 19.7%

New Jersey (1999)
- Blacks & Latinos: 13.5% of drivers, 77% of searches

Three profile stop studies

Power and deviance

- Conflict perspective: defining and punishing deviance is form of social control by "haves" against "have-nots"
- "Have-nots" are more likely to be labeled and punished for crime
- Our legal system doesn't protect us equally from the dangers to us from rich people and poor people
  - Reiman: "Label "crime" refers not to actions that cause most misery and suffering, but primarily to dangerous actions of the poor
- Corporate crime: Estimated cost of white-collar crime (e.g., fraud, embezzlement in 1997 was $338 billion, 10,000 times amount stolen in bank robberies, 20 times thefts)
- Health care: "preventable medical errors" resulted in 88,000 deaths and 1 million injuries to hospitalized Americans and cost $29 billion
- Workplace safety: Reiman estimates over 30,000 annual deaths from occupational disease and hazard

The war on drugs

- African Americans have been disproportionately effected by the war on drugs
  - Blacks and whites use drugs at similar rates
  - However, blacks are more likely to be arrested and spend more time in prison than whites
- Why are blacks disproportionately punished?
  - Social organization of drug use in inner city vs. suburbs
  - Disproportionate sentencing (e.g., 100 to 1 rule)
  - Blacks are targeted by law enforcement (e.g., racial profiling)
- Historically, U.S. drug laws have been linked to race and class

Scapegoating the young

- Violent crime
  - Teenagers commit just 13% of violent crime
  - They are more likely to be victims than offenders
- Drug use
  - Most drug users are adults, but teenagers are more likely to be arrested
- Results of scapegoating teenagers
  - Status offenses that apply only to young
  - Constitutional rights of young ignored
  - Youth culture targeted for censorship
  - Youths given harsher punishments than adults
  - Offenders against children receive lenient sentences