

What is deviance?

- Definition: any behavior, belief, or condition that violates significant social norms in society, OR within the group in which it occurs
- Key Issues:
 - Who defines what deviance is?
 - How much is there?
 - Why does it occur?

Deviance in Sport: Challenges

- Why is it difficult to study deviance in sport?
 - Too much variation in what can be considered deviance
 - Deviant behavior in broader society may be normative within sports
 - “Over-conformity” deviance
 - Medicalization of sport training and performance

Substance Abuse

- What substances are abused in sports?
 - Anabolic-steroids
 - Nutritional supplements
 - Recreational drug use
- How widespread is use?
 - General pattern is increase with time in sport
- History of abuse
 - evidence from Greeks to modern era

Why does abuse happen?

- Drug-using Culture
- Social Status accorded successful athletes
- Perceptions of what is necessary to compete
- Coaching pressure
- Ambiguity in relationship between big-time sports and drug companies
 - sport sponsors, owners, etc.

Drug Testing

- Does it work?
- Concerns:
 - Athletes' rights (4th Amendment)
 - Validity of tests
 - Who is responsible?
- Alternatives
 - drug education

Eating Disorders

- Two majors
 - anorexia nervosa
 - bulimia nervosa
- Gender
 - 93% of victims are women
 - 20 to 60% experience at some point in career

Gambling

- Problems of gambling?
 - Fixing outcomes
 - Most likely targets?
 - Collegiate sports--particularly men's football and basketball
 - Why Collegians?
 - Popularity of sports
 - low incomes for players

Violence

- Most serious form of deviance
- Definitions:
 - Aggression: behavior that has the potential to, or does, injure another person, either psychologically or physically
 - Violence: specifically physically assaultive behavior that has potential to or does injure another person or persons

Theories of Violence in Sports

- Instinctive aggression theories
 - sports represent important safety valve
- Frustration-Aggression theories
 - frustration is triggering mechanism, with sports as outlet
- Social Learning theories
 - learning through observed and experienced reinforcement for aggressive behavior

Levels of Violence in Sports

- Brutal Body Contact
- Borderline violence
 - illegal violence but routinely utilized
- Quasi-criminal violence
 - violations of rules and player norms
- Criminal violence
 - actual violations of criminal statutes

Sources of player violence

- Television and media
 - rough play glamorized
 - pseudo-sport culture
- Fans
 - fan interest associated with violence
- Player pressure to succeed
- Team pressures to be aggressive
 - coaches, owners, organizations

Off-field Violence

- Violence against women
 - gender norms in sports
 - generalization from sports to civilian activity
- Hazing
- Sport Fan Violence
 - decreasing civility on wider society
 - watching violent sports is catalyst
 - “perceived injustice”
- Situational factors