

Crimes Committed by Women in the United States
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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to determine if there was an increase in crime rates after women entered the workforce following the Civil Rights Movement. The study sample accounts for all arrests made in the United States during the following years: 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2004. The arrest types include minor property crimes such as fraud, forgery, and embezzlement. The data was originally obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniformed Crime Reports. Although the sample mainly pertains to women, men are also included as a comparison. The methods used involve a test of significance by using a t-test paired two sample for means. The results of test found that we can reject the null hypothesis which is "Since the Civil Rights Movement, minor property crimes committed by women have not increased significantly when compared to men." This means that minor property crimes committed by women have indeed increased significantly since the Civil Rights Movement. Since females gained more independence the crime rates for fraud, forgery, and embezzlement increased.

Introduction

The primary goal of this research study is to determine whether women's crime rates have increased, decreased, or stayed constant since the onset of the Civil Rights Movement. During this time, women gained independence and there was a shift toward dual income households. Before the Civil Rights Movement, males dominated economic roles. However, as women entered the workforce at a higher rate with a lesser pay, studies argue that women also engaged in more petty crimes. I argue that a breadwinner mentality garners more pressure on women to make money and provide for a dual income household thus motivating them to commit crime. There also becomes an increased opportunity for women to commit crime in various workplace environments.

In 1964, the Civil Rights Act was passed. This act prevented discrimination because of race, religion, sex or national origin. The goal of this act was to end segregation. The act simultaneously influenced women's access to jobs and their participation in the workplace. Similarly, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) gave women an opportunity to enter careers that were not available to them prior to 1964 (Bebusinessed, n.d.). When job opportunities began to rise, the opportunity to commit crimes such as fraud, embezzlement, and forgery increased as well.

If crimes committed by women have risen since women gained increased economic independence and access to employment, it is important to understand how and why this occurred. This study explains women's motives and the correlation between women's work and their potential motivations to commit crimes. This study is important because it also offers recommendations about decreasing crime rates among women. It is interesting to examine the rates of crime by gender. Women offenders have been traditionally overlooked or forgotten in

the study of criminal behavior especially in workforce related crime studies. This research brings the subject matter to light.

Literature Review

Forsyth and Marckese (1995) also describe a gender gap in crime perpetration. They argue that socialization and opportunities explain female crime trends. Both socialization and opportunity theories posit that females are socialized in a manner that deter them from criminal conduct. The deviation from this position results in increases in female crime. The authors list five key reasons for differences crime among men and women. They state, “sex differences in socialization patterns and application of social control, sex differences are built into the crime categories, differential role expectations for women and men... differential access to criminality oriented careers or subcultures and structurally determine differences in opportunity to commit particular offenses” (Forsyth & Marckese, p, 127-128, 1995).

Forsyth and Marckese (1995) also argue that woman have been expected to stay home, do housework, and take care of the family. Thus, women were more likely to follow the traditional norms. Although, with more females out of the house and in the workforce, opportunities to commit crimes are opening up. Specifically, jobs that have financial positions give a better opportunity for the chance to commit the three crimes (Forsyth & Marckese 1995).

The findings of their research were presented in charts. The number of women committing fraud and embezzlement have increased since 1964. Since 1943, forgery and counterfeiting have increased. Female participation in these crimes since entering the workforce has increased (Forsyth & Marckese 1995).

Findings in Forsyth and Marckese (1995) apply directly to the current research question that a breadwinner mentality garners more pressure on women to make money and provide for a dual income household thus motivating them to commit crime and giving more of an opportunity to do so. This is because it looks at the opportunity given to women to commit a crime. As rates of fraud, forgery, and embezzlement have increased, opportunities in the workplace have increased and woman have participated in these crimes.

Steffensmeier and Allan (1996) study the FBI's crime statistics. They also look at the National Crime Victimization Survey, self-report surveys, and case studies of male and female offenders. Steffensmeier and Allan believe that "the similarity in male and female trends suggests that the rates of both sexes are influenced by similar social and legal forces, independent of any condition unique to women or men" (Steffensmeier and Allan, p. 462, 1996).

This research looks at both men and women, however, they specifically mention that there is a significant increase of minor property crimes, those being larceny, fraud, forgery, and embezzlement. The increase is in the periods 1960, 1975, and 1990 (Steffensmeier and Allan 1996). According to Steffensmeier and Allan (1996), women made up fifteen percent of arrestees in 1960 and thirty to forty percent in 1990. The biggest increase was from 1960 to 1975 which was twelve to nineteen percent. They mention that this is before the Women's Movement flourished.

Steffensmeier and Allan (1996) agree that it is acceptable to contend that the more freedom women now have will give them more participation in the public. According to that it "could help account for some of the increases in the female share of arrests for petty property offenses like larceny (shoplifting, employee theft), fraud (misuse of credit cards), or forgery (writing bad checks)" (Steffensmeier and Allan 1996).

Hartnagel (1982) believed that there was a positive correlation between modernization and female property crime. He also expects “a positive relationship between female public-role participation and female crime-where females are more involved in such public areas as politics, education, and the labor force, female crime should be higher” (Hartnagel, p. 479-480, 1982).

Donald Manson (1986) writes in the Bureau of Justice Statistics article that females had the highest number in the crimes forgery, fraud, and embezzlement. He defines white collar crime as a group of crimes rather than an official category. Putting these three crimes in this category it distinguishes them from other crimes like violent and public order crimes (Manson 1986).

Similarly, Klein and Kress (2014) state that in order to understand women and criminal offending, one must understand the relationship between a woman and their economic and social position in a society of modern capitalism. The economic position of women is based on where they are at in personal survivor, life support and emotional refugee. They also say that the structure of family is based on sexism because women’s roles in the family are natural. Women are to provide goods to the family. This relates to the research question because if women can’t provide goods, they may go to an extreme measure in order to do so.

One of the data sets Klein and Kress (2014) use is data from the FBI crime statistics. They look at data from 1953-1974. An important part to point out is that for property crimes, women’s crime rates raised from 8.5% in 1953 to 21.2 in 1974. The findings state the following: “We have indicated that the special oppression of women by that system is not isolated or arbitrary, but rather is rooted in systematic sexist practices and ideologies that can only be fully understood by analyzing the position of women in capitalist society. However, there are changes

occurring in the position and activities of women—in their participation in the labor force, in educational opportunities, political activity, and family roles” (Klein & Kress, p. 185, 2014).

Flower (2010) explains that females take a completely different path than males when it comes to crime. The path of criminal behavior is influenced by life experiences and gendered perspectives. The differences in crimes also is in the type, risk factors, societal roles, the need for different services, and the smaller involvement in crime (Flower 2010).

Continuing with Flower (2010), there are over 1.3 million females in the criminal justice system. Out of these women, 213,000 of them are in prison. According to the article, “the number of women incarcerated and supervised by the criminal justice system has maintained a sharp upward trajectory, outpacing that of male offenders” (Flower, p. 2, 2010).

This article also relates to the research question of the breadwinner mentality and how it garners more pressure on women to provide for a dual household income and thus motivate women to commit theft while giving them more of an opportunity to do so. The data used by Flower (2010) comes from the work of Minton and Sabol (2009) and West and Sabol (2009) and many others. The author finds that when women are given access to opportunities such as fewer structural barriers and public capital, they are less likely to be involved in crime. Flower (2010) also suggests to “increase their personal, social, and human capital as well as enhance the overall quality of life for the ex-offender, her children, her family, and her community” (Flower, p. 8, 2010).

Chesney-Lind and Pasko (2013) argue that women’s arrests for crime has doubled in the past twenty-five years. Women with clerical and service positions are less likely to steal thousands of dollars at a time. There still exists opportunities to steal smaller amounts. Motives include family responsibilities (Chesney-Lind & Pasko, 2013). In 2009, women were arrested

slightly more for embezzlement than men (Chesney-Lind & Pasko, 2013). Chesney-Lind and Pasko (2013) find that women may become half of those charged if current trends in embezzlement rates follow current trends.

Chesney-Lind and Pasko (2013) state that forgery is the most common crime committed by women. Forgery is number one for women and number five for men of the most common crimes. Chesney-Lind and Pasko (2013) conclude that there are so many women in low-paying and low status jobs that it increases their involvement in property crime.

Chesney-Lind and Pasko (2013) use data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2010. They analyze the data to come up with their core findings. Their core finding is that women's involvement in nontraditional crimes have much to do with their placement in society. The authors state that it is "economic marginalization that causes women to move out of their 'traditional' roles into the role of the criminal" (Chesney-Lind & Pasko, p. 117, 2013). This is quite interesting to place with my research question of the breadwinner mentality putting pressure on women to make money because it mentions women coming out of traditional roles meaning they are no longer only allowed to stay at home. Since women's placement in society has changed, so has their means for crime.

Feminist theory, according to Ritzer and Goodman (2004), is woman-centered and developed by that center. The three ways for this are the starting point as the situations and experiences as women in society, women are "central subjects" which means to see the world from the vantage point of women, and lastly, it is critical to produce a better world for women (Ritzer & Goodman, 2004).

Ritzer and Goodman (2004) explain four themes to characterize gender inequality. He explains first that "men and women are situated in society not only differently but also

unequally” (Ritzer & Goodman, p. 445, 2004). Women do not acquire as many material resources, social status, power, and opportunities for self-actualization as men do. This results in a certain organization of society that is not from biological or personality differences. Third, even though humans vary in profiles there is no pattern of variation distinguishing sex. Humans are wired to need freedom and seek self-actualization which leads them to adapt to the opportunity given. Last, “all inequality theories assume that both women and men will respond fairly easily and naturally to more egalitarian social structures and situations (Ritzer & Goodman, p. 446, 2004).

This theory can be used to explain the research question. The first theme of gender inequality means that men and women have different placement in society but also are unequally situated. This again contributes to the research question that as women’s economic role increases in the family there is more pressure on women to contribute to a dual income household, thus motivating them to commit crime related to the acquisition of resources. This contributes because since men and women are given unequal placement, women try to make their own way of providing. The second theme results from this because the structure of society is not due to biological or personality differences but to gender differences.

The third theme of gender inequality states that humans will adapt to the opportunity given in order to reach the self-actualization and freedom. Women who want to commit a crime like fraud and others, do so in order to have more money. The last theme states that inequality theories assume men and women will respond the same to social structures and situations. This is obviously not the case because people respond in all sorts of ways.

Next, Forsyth and Marckese (1995) use the socialization and opportunity theory. The basic idea of this theory is that women have more opportunities to commit crimes. Women have

become socialized, meaning they have integrated into society, become a part of it, and contributed to it, which gives them opportunities to commit crimes. Specifically these Forsyth and Marckese (1995) are looking at fraud, embezzlement, and forgery/counterfeiting. These crimes are specific to work related crimes. Women have not always had the opportunity to work but now they can hold high positions in previously male dominated work. These places are banking and businesses giving women the chance to commit these crimes. This relates to the question because it is looking at changes in female crime over time. This theory looks at the change in opportunity as women become socialized.

Since 1960, property crimes, specifically fraud, forgery, and embezzlement, committed by women have increased significantly when compared to men. Male participation in these crimes have increased by a minimum amount but not nearly the amount of increase as woman.

According to Mallicoat (2012), Freda Adler hypothesized that female violent crime rates will rise and Rita Simon hypothesized that female property crime rates would rise because of their “liberation from traditional gender roles and restrictions” (Mallicoat, p.22, 2012). Mallicoat (2012) continues to explain that women are socialized differently than men. Boys are given a greater freedom and are told to be more aggressive, ambitious, and outgoing. Girls, on the other hand, are just expected to be more passive and not violent. This socialization results girls do not have as many opportunities to commit crime. By recognizing these differences in the socialization process of the two genders, it leads to “modern-day feminist discussion of crime” (Mallicoat, p. 22, 2012).

Theory/Hypothesis

Many women today are single parents who do not earn as much as males. Some women make their own way to earn money. They do this by committing a crime. Since the fraud and embezzlement level is so high for women, they are using these crimes as a way to make more money. However, many woman who commit these crimes are also middle aged women and long term employees. Many of the women who commit these crimes are people who would not be suspected to do so. Women look to this as a need of survival for themselves and for their family. They may even see it as a last resort before it all goes downhill. It is also possible that women look to this as a need for equality. Since men are still making more money than women today, women may see that inequality and find a way to “fix” it in their own way.

As more woman enter the labor force, this could put more pressure on women to make a living. Since men previously controlled formal economic roles, woman have to make their own ways to control it. Spencer-Wood (2001) states that “feminist gender research problematizes stereotypes, asking questions such as what were the public and domestic roles of both women and men? What were the diverse gender ideologies of women and men? How did women construct their own gender identities and relationship?” Feminist researchers can look into the differences of the gender roles, relationships, identities, and ideologies for men and women (Spencer-Wood, 2001).

The postmodern feminist theory explains that ideologies of gender, class, and race are connected. The British Capitalist ideology states that men’s wages were based on living costs and women’s were seen as secondary incomes for households supported by a man. Thus, they did not need to be equivalent to that of a man (Spencer-Wood, 2001). This theory can be applied to the research question because it explains why there is a difference in men and women’s wages.

The Behavior Change theory by Schwartz (2013) believes that women could use violence as a coping strategy. Women can struggle with keeping a sense of their self and conforming to roles that say how women should act, think, and do. The dispute between what is supposed to be available for women and what actually is could lead to violence as well as stressors. This is relatable to the question because it is looking at female offending and changes over time. The changes in behavior because of greater freedom is perfectly aligned with the question.

The following are the hypothesis:

H₁-Since the Civil Rights Movement, property crimes committed by women have increased significantly when compared to men.

H₀- Since the Civil Rights Movement, minor property crimes committed by women have not increased significantly when compared to men.

Schwartz (2013) calls her theory the Behavior Change theory. The basic premise of this theory is that changes in female lives have contributed to the rise in female offending. These changes are more freedom and more opportunities causing stress. These changes have given the motivation and opportunity for violence. One form of this is the shifts in gender organization and in gender-roles. When gender-roles shift, this can lead to female behavior becoming masculine, thus increasing the motivation for aggressive behavior.

The Behavior Change theory looks at changes in women's behavior over time. An example of this is women used to stay at home and not work. Now women can work where they want and have opportunities to become the leader of the work place. When women did not work, they did not have any opportunity to embezzle money. Now they are able to work in establishments where this is possible.

This theory is used for the research question because changes in women's lives have indeed contributed to women's crime. My research question states that a breadwinner mentality places more pressure on women to make money and provide for a dual income household so it motivates them to commit crime. There also becomes an increased opportunity for women to commit crime in various workplace environments. The increased opportunity of crimes goes right along with the behavior change theory. This theory talks about aggressive behavior in women but also presents an opening for the topic of the freedom causing women to have the opportunity to steal money.

Methods

The crime statistics obtained for this study was collected from multiple publications. The data obtained for the years 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2004 are collected from *The Nature of Female Offending: Patterns and Explanation* written by Shwartz and Steffensmeier (2008). The data includes male and female arrest rates per 100,000 people. The crime data for 2005 to 2014 was obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniformed Crime Report website in Table 33 (2014). The procedure followed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to create Table 33 was to collect the data from all police departments. These police departments are in the United States and they needed to submit twelve months of arrest data for 2005 and 2014.

The independent variable of this research is women's role in the economy. This is operationalized as after the Civil Rights Movement, women entered the workforce at a higher rate which meant gaining independence and choosing their life path. This was measured using an ordinal level of measurement. The dependent variable is the crime rates of females. This is operationalized as females of all ages, of all races and living in the United States. This was

measured using an interval/ratio level of measurement. I used the data from the UCR to observe this. The unit of analysis for this research is female crime rates. The sampling frame is all females of all ages and races in the United States. The sample is the females who have been arrested for crime. There are no control groups for this research.

The method of investigation I used to test my hypothesis was a series of paired sample t-tests. Each test was conducted separately for each crime (fraud, forgery, and embezzlement). This was chosen because comparing means was needed to figure out if the crime rates have risen. This statistical test determines if the hypotheses are very unlikely or not. It determines this by using observed data. This test also determines if the study is real or due to chance.

The following is a table showing the collected data. This data was adapted from Schwartz and Steffensmeier (2008). The years collected were 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2004. These years are representative of start of the Civil Rights Movement up until present time. The three crimes the data specifically looks at are fraud, forgery, and embezzlement. This data is specific to women.

1	1960	1970	1980	1990	2004
Fraud	13	27	90	125	91
Forgery	8	14	20	26	32
Embezz.	-	3	2	5	6

Note. Adapted from Schwartz, J. & Steffensmeier, D. (2008). "Nature of Female Offending: Patterns and Explanations," by J. Schwartz and D. Steffensmeier, 2008, *Female Offenders: Critical Perspectives and Effective Interventions*.

Analysis of Results

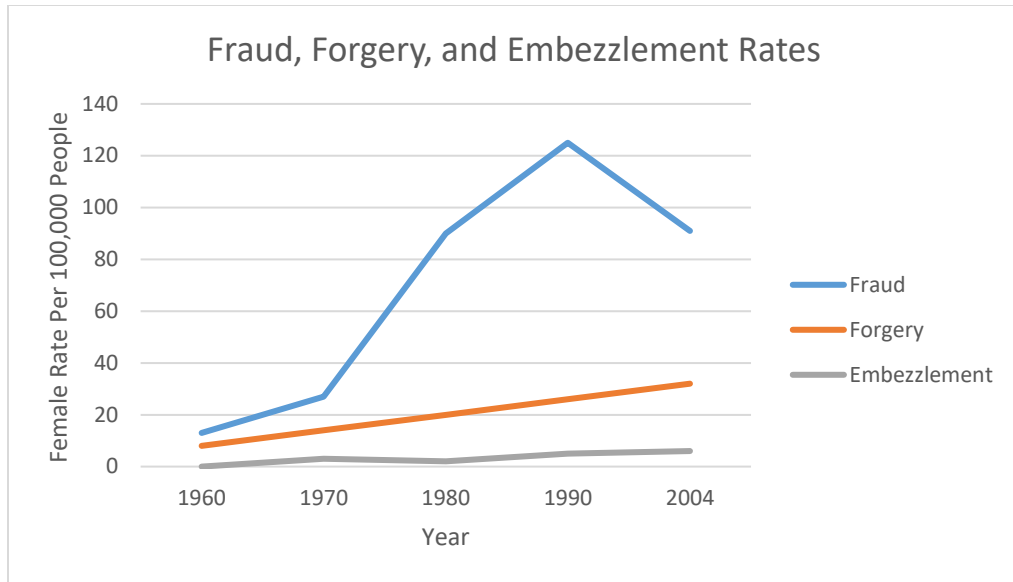
To demonstrate that these three crimes have increased since the 1960's, the following tables show the summary statistics of the three crimes that this research is focused on. Table 1

shows the summary statistics of fraud, Table 2 shows the summary statistics of forgery, and Table 3 shows the summary statistics of embezzlement.

The following charts are an easy demonstration to follow and see the upward trend in female crime since the 1960s. Table 4 is the fraud, forgery, and embezzlement rates of women per 100,000 people. Looking at this, it is easy to see that these crimes have increased over the years, however fraud has gone down between 1990 and 2004. Embezzlement rates have increased slightly. Male rates of these crimes have relatively remained the same. Although, fraud spiked and then decreased in 1990 just like females. This result is demonstrated in Table 5 below.

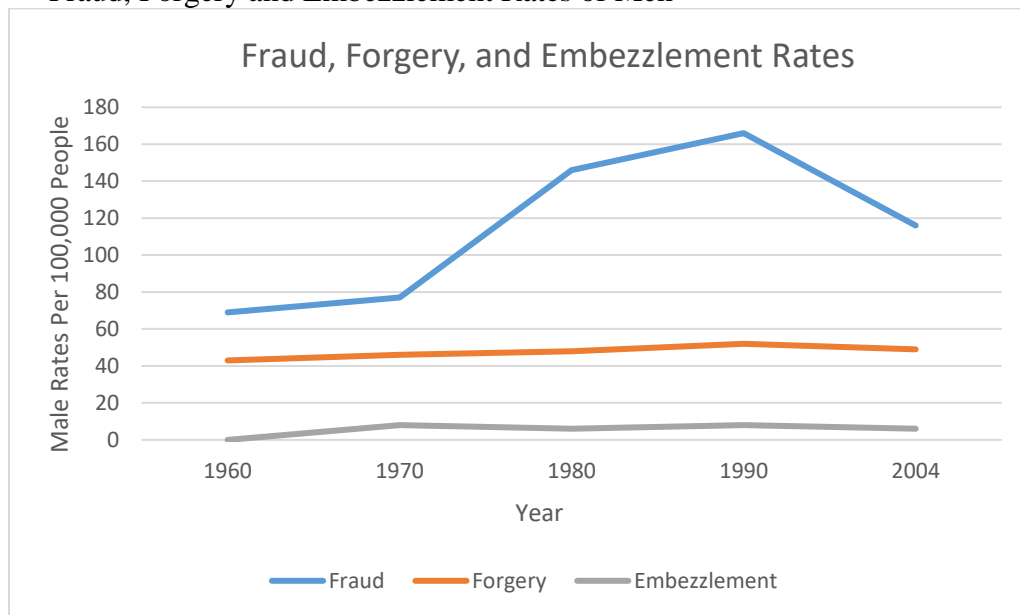
This is very interesting that fraud rates were at the highest in 1990 for both genders. Povel, Singh and Winton (2007) suggest that the 1990's were a "boom" for fraud. They explain that costs of monitoring firms could explain this. Lowering the costs would suggest that fraud would be lessened, however this was not the case. They state, "in fact, reduced monitoring costs can actually lead to more fraud, not less: this happens if investors have relatively optimistic priors, so that their monitoring focuses on firms with negative public information. Moreover, the correlation of fraud incentives with good prior beliefs actually increases as monitoring costs fall" (Povel, Singh & Winton, 2007). The nineties brought improved computing and communicating technology that reduced monitoring costs significantly. A wave of crimes resulted explaining why both men and women rates of fraud reached its peak in 1990 (Povel, Singh & Winton, 2007).

Table 4
Fraud, Forgery and Embezzlement Rates of Women



Note. Adapted from Schwartz, J. & Steffensmeier, D. (2008). “Nature of Female Offending: Patterns and Explanations,” by J. Schwartz and D. Steffensmeier, 2008, *Female Offenders: Critical Perspectives and Effective Interventions*.

Table 5
 Fraud, Forgery and Embezzlement Rates of Men



Note. Adapted from Schwartz, J. & Steffensmeier, D. (2008). “Nature of Female Offending: Patterns and Explanations,” by J. Schwartz and D. Steffensmeier, 2008, *Female Offenders: Critical Perspectives and Effective Interventions*.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's UCR Table 33 shows data for 2005 and 2014. This data actually shows a -5.2 percent change in female crime rates between 2005 and 2014 (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2014). If using the opportunity theory, this could be due to women already having independence women did not used to have before the 1960's. They have had these opportunities open to them for a while and it is not as new as it once one.

The test of significance showed that the null hypothesis can be rejected for all cases. For all tests the alpha is 0.05. First, a t test was conducted to compare the means of arrest rates for fraud for men and women. The following is a table showing the test:

	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>
Mean	76.66666667	105.5
Variance	2126.666667	1943.5
Observations	6	6
Pearson Correlation	0.552674906	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	5	
t Stat	-1.65417371	
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.079499007	
t Critical one-tail	2.015048373	
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.158998014	
t Critical two-tail	2.570581836	

Note. Adapted from Schwartz, J. & Steffensmeier, D. (2008). "Nature of Female Offending: Patterns and Explanations," by J. Schwartz and D. Steffensmeier, 2008, *Female Offenders: Critical Perspectives and Effective Interventions*.

The t critical is 2.57 and the t stat is -1.65. The t critical is larger than the t value, thus reject the null hypothesis ($2.57 > -1.65$). Also, the alpha and p value can be compared. The alpha is 0.05 and the p value is .158. The p value is larger than the alpha so this also rejects the null hypothesis ($0.05 < .158$).

The next t test was conducted to compare the means of arrest rates between men and woman for forgery. The following is a table showing the test:

	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>
Mean	24.33333333	42.66666667
Variance	184.6666667	155.0666667
Observations	6	6
Pearson Correlation	-0.630340545	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	5	
t Stat	-1.909538055	
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.057227033	
t Critical one-tail	2.015048373	
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.114454067	
t Critical two-tail	2.570581836	

Note. Adapted from Schwartz, J. & Steffensmeier, D. (2008). “Nature of Female Offending: Patterns and Explanations,” by J. Schwartz and D. Steffensmeier, 2008, *Female Offenders: Critical Perspectives and Effective Interventions*.

The t critical is 2.57 and the t stat is -1.91. The t critical is larger than the t value, thus reject the null hypothesis ($2.57 > -1.91$). Also, the alpha and p value can be compared. The alpha is 0.05 and the p value is .114. The p value is larger than the alpha so this also rejects the null hypothesis ($0.05 < .114$). All of these values are significant which means that the two samples are different and it the probability this is due to chance is very small.

The last t test was conducted to compare the means of arrest rates between men and woman for embezzlement. The following is a table showing the test:

	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>
Mean	4.6	6.2
Variance	4.3	4.2
Observations	5	5
Pearson Correlation	-0.564744966	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	4	
t Stat	-0.981022943	

P(T<=t) one-tail	0.191062895
t Critical one-tail	2.131846786
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.38212579
t Critical two-tail	2.776445105

Note. Adapted from Schwartz, J. & Steffensmeier, D. (2008). "Nature of Female Offending: Patterns and Explanations," by J. Schwartz and D. Steffensmeier, 2008, *Female Offenders: Critical Perspectives and Effective Interventions*.

The t critical is 2.78 and the t stat is -.98. The t critical is larger than the t value, thus reject the null hypothesis ($2.78 > -.98$). Also, the alpha and p value can be compared. The alpha is 0.05 and the p value is .382. The p value is larger than the alpha so this also rejects the null hypothesis ($0.05 < .382$).

Since all three tests of significances show that the null hypothesis can be rejected, we reject the null which is "Since the Civil Rights Movement, minor property crimes committed by women have not increased significantly when compared to men." Each test was done separately so it is easier to read the results.

These findings relate back to the opportunity theory. The greater opportunity for crime, of course brings higher rates of crime. The t-tests support the overall premise that changes to women's economic role appears to be associated with changes to their involvement in crime over time. There is very clear evidence that the two are strongly associated.

Discussion/Conclusion

This research was intended to study the crime rates of women since 1960. Specifically, the research was to look at property crimes that are popular in the workforce. These crimes are fraud, forgery, and embezzlement. The most important thing to take away from this research is that since 1960, property crimes committed by women have indeed increased significantly when compared to men.

The data was obtained from *The Nature of Female Offending: Patterns and Explanation* (2008) written by Shwartz and Steffensmeier. The article had a chart of all crimes and the rate of male and female crimes per 100,000 people. Specifically, fraud, forgery, and embezzlement was looked at.

The results supported the original hypothesis that since the Civil Rights Movement, property crimes committed by women have increased significantly when compared to men because these crimes have indeed increased since 1960. I compared the means between men and women and found that there is a significant difference between the two groups for various crimes over time. The test of significance clearly showed that the null hypothesis can be rejected. It is interesting that female offending rates for fraud, forgery, and embezzlement have significantly increased however male offending rates in these three categories have not. The rates of males have stayed consistent. This shows that gaining more independence in the world has affected female crime patterns. The rise in offences has coincided with the dates since 1960.

There are potential limitations of this data collection. The Uniformed Crime Reports are collected from police agencies and sometimes the information can be flawed. The largest limitation is that the data collected is only based on reported crimes. Many crimes go unreported and those will not be part of the data. Another limitation is law enforcement agencies could put incorrect numbers for various reasons.

It is tough to say what could be done to overcome limitations of the UCR. Other data could be used to correspond with this. Additional research to better the understanding of this research question is more crime statistics in years before 1960. There is not much out there that has data back before this date. If there was it could show a better understanding of why this is

happening. This contributes to a larger body because these data sets are looked at all across the United States and changes within the systems could be made because of the data.

Another limitation is that a better test of the premise would be to use a regression analysis to observe the effect of changes to women's economic roles in the family as it relates to the number of per capita crimes for fraud, forgery, and embezzlement. By doing this, it would regress several indicators on a dependent variable of crime.

Furthermore, the trend in crime rates for women are consistent with opportunity theories. The rates heighten as women are liberated. As the opportunities become something that is no longer new, the rates decrease a bit. The data shows, however, that since females gained more independence the crime rates for fraud, forgery, and embezzlement increased. This is not exactly a revelation in research but it is very interesting to learn about it with concrete evidence.

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Codebook

Female- 1

Male- 2

Fraud- Fraudulent conversion and obtaining money or property by false pretenses. Included are confidence games and bad checks except forgeries and counterfeiting.

Forgery/counterfeiting- Making, altering, uttering, or possessing, with intent to defraud, anything false in the semblance of that which is true. Attempts are included.

Embezzlement (Embezz.)- Misappropriation or misapplication of money or property entrusted to one's care, custody, or control.

Independent variable- Women's role in the economy. This is operationalized as after the Civil Rights Movement, women entered the workforce at a higher rate which meant gaining independence and choosing their life path.

Dependent variable- Crime rates of females. This is operationalized as females of the age 18 and older of all races and living in the United States.

Unit of analysis- female crime rates.

Missing information in table= -