

# **Why Commit Crime?**

## **7 Key Theories**

# #1 – Rational Choice Theory

- People act in their self-interest and make decisions to commit crime after weighing the potential risks against the rewards.

# #2 – Social Disorganization Theory

- A person's physical and social environments are primarily responsible for the behavioral choices that person makes.

# #3 – Strain Theory

- Most people have similar aspirations, but not the same opportunities. When people fail to achieve society's expectations through approved means they may attempt to achieve success through crime.

# #4 – Social Learning Theory

- People develop motivation & skills to commit crime through the people they associate with.

# #5 – Social Control Theory

- Most people would commit crime if not for the controls that society places on individuals (Ex: School).

# #6 – Labeling Theory

- People in power decide what acts are crimes. Once a person is labeled a criminal, society takes away their opportunities, which may ultimately lead to more criminal behavior.

# **#7 - Biology, Genetics, and Evolution:**

- Poor diet, mental illness, bad brain chemistry, and even evolutionary rewards for aggressive criminal conduct cause criminal behavior.