

Comparative Criminology: **CRIME RATES**

Comparing Crime Rates of U.S. Cities

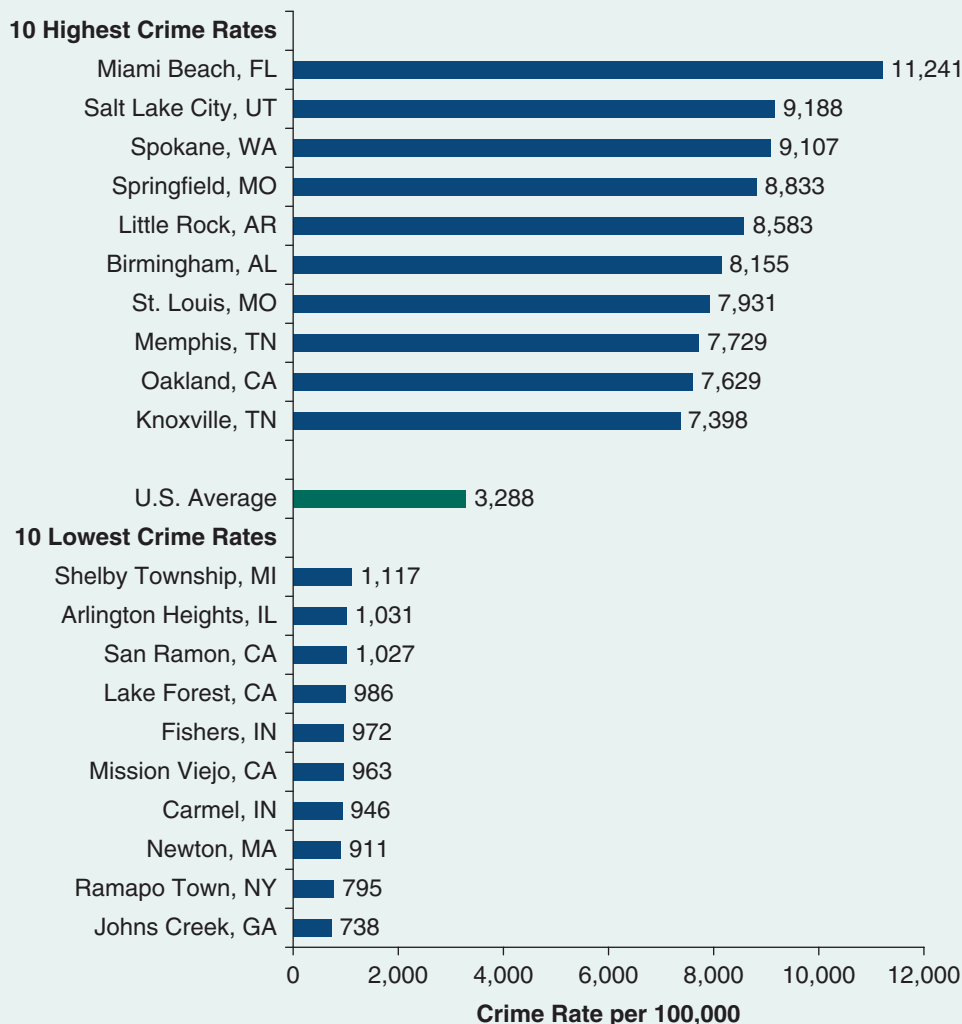
Given that this is the developmental theory chapter and we have explored all the major Part I or Index crimes in the UCR, as well as examining international comparisons for each of them, we thought it would be beneficial to concentrate on comparing various cities in the United States. So in this unique Comparative Criminology box, we are going to compare the crime rates of cities in the United States based on their total score on the UCR Crime Index for the year 2014. This measure includes rates for seven of the Index crimes for each city; these

seven are murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft. Remember, these are comparisons based on rates per capita (not numbers), so they are somewhat fair comparisons regardless of the number of citizens in a given city. Notably, this study and ranking include only cities with populations of 75,000 or more.

Figure 13.3 shows cities with the top and bottom ten rankings on the total crime Index score for 2014. The “worst,” or highest, ranking on this score was Miami Beach, Florida, followed by Salt Lake City, Utah; Spokane, Washington;

FIGURE 13.3

10 U.S. Cities With the Highest and Lowest Crime Rates



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2015). *Crime in the United States, 2014*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

(Continued)