Course Information

Quantitative research is widely used in criminology. Students are often exposed to such research without fully understanding it. These videos will reinforce classroom learning by providing definitions of quantitative research, explaining the difference between quantitative and qualitative research, and providing examples of this type of research.

Wesley Jennings Defines Quantitative Research
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/wesley-jennings-defines-quantitative-research

Dr. Wesley Jennings defines quantitative research as research that uses numerical data to answer questions.

Crime Measuring and Mapping: Crime, Ethnicity, and Offending

Dr. James Hunter discusses using quantitative analysis of crime data to answer the question, “Who commits crime?” In his research, Dr. Hunter looks at the crime statistics of different areas and compares them with the reported ethnicity of the offenders.

Wesley Jennings Discusses Quantitative Research & Statistics
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/wesley-jennings-discusses-quantitative-research-and-statistics

Dr. Wesley Jennings discusses quantitative research and statistics in criminal justice. He compares quantitative and qualitative approaches and offers suggestions for how to improve data collection.

Suggested Courses or Topics

These videos can be used in a variety of criminology courses, which might include:

- social science research methods,
- survey of crime and justice,
- criminal justice research methods, or
- entry-level criminology.

Classroom Clips

- Wesley Jennings Defines Quantitative Research: This clip provides a brief definition of quantitative research. Clip 0:10 – 0:54.
- Crime Measuring and Mapping: Crime, Ethnicity, and Offending
  - This clip gives an example of quantitative data and how the data are used to study crime and ethnicity. Clip 3:30 – 8:03.
  - This clip discusses the downside of using statistical analyses. Clip 8:07 – 10:51.
- Wesley Jennings Discusses Quantitative Research and Statistics
  - This clip discusses the difference between quantitative and qualitative research. Clip 0:51 – 1:28.
  - This clip discusses how quantitative research has impacted law enforcement. Clip 1:28 – 2:28.
  - This clip talks about the use of statistics across different levels of the criminal justice system. Clip 2:29 – 3:09.
  - This clip discusses the importance of good research for conducting statistical analyses. Clip 4:02 – 4:57.

Research Assignment

Dr. Jennings discusses the difference between qualitative and quantitative research (Clip 0:51 – 1:28). Find, read, and summarize four research studies that examine a specific research question. Of these four studies, at least one should be qualitative. Discuss how the qualitative study differed from the quantitative studies. Were the results substantively different?

Classroom Discussion

Dr. Hunter discusses the pitfalls of using statistical analyses (Clip 8:07 – 10:51). How prevalent do you think these issues are? What are the long-term consequences of these issues?