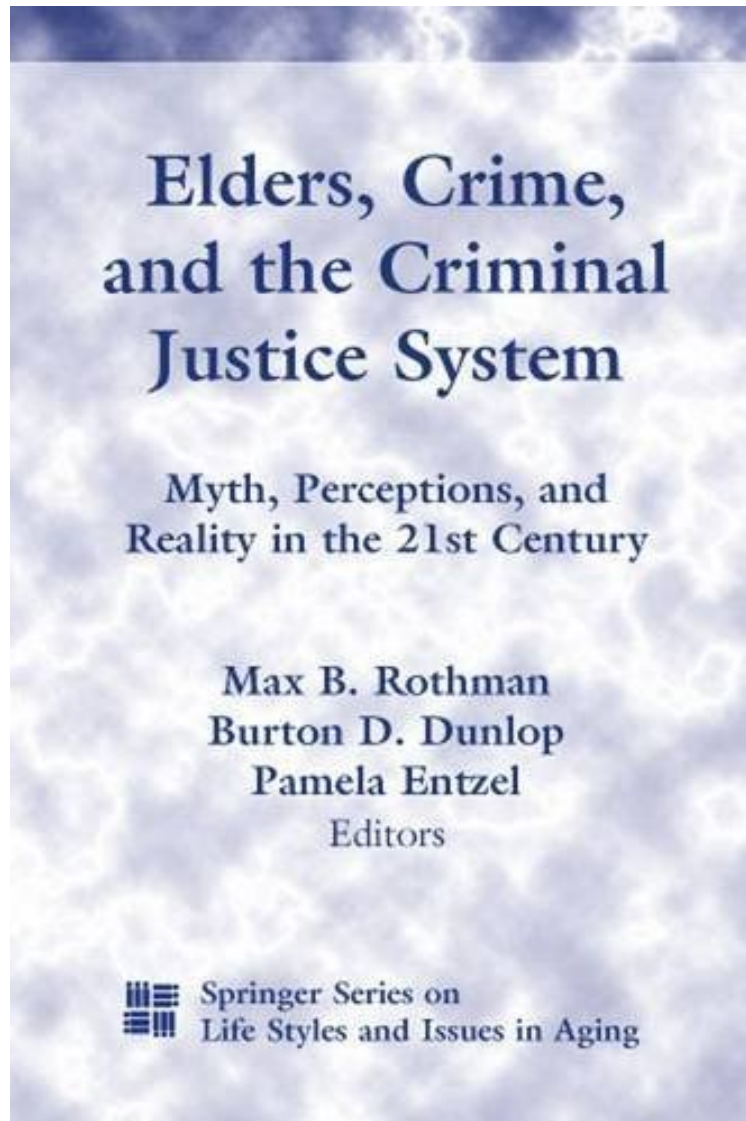


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Criminal Justice System: Myth, Perceptions, and Reality in the 21st Century (Springer Series on Life Styles and Issues in Aging):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Rare researchBy Sharon TurcoA growing population, mental illness, less tolerance for crime and feelings of desperation and despair are reasons why elderly people are committing more violent crimes, according to the book. Little research has been done about the topics addressed by a several contributors to the book. Each contributor, an expert on his or her topic of choice, took a massive amount of information and boiled it down to easy to understand statistics. They also included helpful charts. Two stand-out chapters are Elders as Perpetrators by Edith Elisabeth Flynn and The Older Prisoner: Social, Psychological, and Medical Considerations by John J. Kerbs. Flynn said elder crime has become a major concern for policy-makers. Although violent crime by older people is on the rise, Flynn cautioned that overall arrests for that age group are down. Most elders are law-abiding, she said. As such, elders are best viewed as a stabilizing force in society and not as an emerging, new problem on the horizon of criminal justice. She adds, Though numerically small, some elders do engage in crime and violence and are quite capable of inflicting serious losses and harm. Kerbs says most of the country's older prisoners are not getting proper medical, psychological and social care. He says the older prisoner's physical, psychological and social needs are complex, and require health workers who understand those needs. Most prisons, he said, aren't equipped to provide that type of care. The editors, Max B. Rothman, Burton D. Dunlop and Pamela Entzel, choose well when selecting authors.

This book provides a comprehensive analysis of interactions between older people and the criminal justice system. The editors present current research on elders in a multitude of roles, from victim and offender to attorney, defendant, witness, juror, and prisoner. Of particular interest are chapters on the psychological and medical conditions of elder prisoners, and issue around selective decarceration. Each contributor documents empirical data and identifies social, policy, and ethical implications, where applicable. Recommended for gerontologists, sociologists, social workers, and professionals in the legal and criminal justice fields.

"By invoking issues around critical economic, psychological, and sociological aspects of the lives of older men and women--portrayed in various roles in the legal process and courts--this book reopens long-standing questions about the meanings and experiences of growing older."--from the foreword by W. Andrew Achenbaum and Mary A. SchieveFrom the Back Cover"This book provides a comprehensive analysis of interactions between older people and the criminal justice system. The editors present current research on elders in a multitude of roles, from victim and offender to attorney, defendant, witness, juror, and prisoner. Of particular interest are chapters on the psychological and medical conditions of elder prisoners, and issue around selective decarceration. Each contributor documents empirical data and identifies social, policy, and ethical implications, where applicable. Recommended for gerontologists, sociologists, social workers, and professionals in the legal and criminal justice fields. "