**Economic Theories of Crime**

1. We began by reviewing data showing a large decline in U.S. violent crime since 1993.

2. One theory, previously discussed in class is the decline in lead exposure, including in paint and gasoline.

3. We discussed the theory that the legalization of abortion nationwide, through *Roe vs Wade* may have led to less crime roughly twenty years later. One way to estimate this effect is to compare states (such as New York), where abortion was already legal, to states (like Pennsylvania) where it was not.

4. Other theories include the proliferation of violent video games and changes in policing or incarceration techniques.