



CHILDHOOD DEVIANCE

The Motives Behind Crime

ABSTRACT

The problem address in this paper is one dealing with juvenile crime, also known as childhood deviance, and its causation. To accomplish this I sought answers to the following three basic questions: why do children commit crimes and what methods have the greatest impact on them living a life without crime; why some children grow out of the tendency to commit crimes and become law-abiding adults, and why others do not; and what methods are best at teaching juvenile offenders a better way of life and inspire them to stop committing crimes? After delving into the research of past criminologists, sociologist, and social scientists, and conducting my own field research I discovered what turned out to be another piece of the puzzle.

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Childhood Deviance: The Motives Behind Crime

Introduction:

After looking into why some families produce violent children, while others produce productive loving adults, I realized there is still a lot more that needs to be answered. Children making the choice to kill is only one aspect of the juvenile criminology system. To better understand the phenomenon of juvenile crime completely, I realized that I must look at all the crimes committed by youth and not just murder. In the last research project that I conducted, I discovered that there are many things that influence the development of children and that produce children who resort to violent actions. I concluded that there is evidence that the maltreatment of children has a direct link to their choice of committing the violent act of murder. I also discovered that children view and experience the world in different ways than do adults, and I will explain this in greater detail later in this paper. I believe this knowledge is paramount to understanding the behavior of children and helping to reduce the risk of not just future violence but to reduce overall crime. It is my theory that our greatest weapon against crime is understanding the motives of juvenile criminals and then using it to prevent not just juvenile crimes, but adult crime as well.

The reason behind this strong link in juvenile crime and adult crime is that childhood experiences shape the adults that people grow up to become. It is the youngest childhood years that were found to have the greatest impact on whether the child will thrive as a teenager, and then later as an adult, or if they will succumb to the criminal world. Studies have deduced that there are three basic needs that must be met so that the child develops the characteristics of a successful teenager and even more importantly, a successful adult. My goal in this research study is to find out which of these categories plays the largest role in criminal behavior and how people perceive their importance. I am seeking to answer three basic questions: *why do children commit crimes*

and what methods have the greatest impact on their living a life without crime; why some children grow out of the tendency to commit crimes and become law-abiding adults, and why others do not; and what methods are best at teaching juvenile offenders a better way of life and inspire them to stop committing crimes?

Since studies have already shown that children have an overwhelming desire to feel accepted, I am expecting to find that the psychological aspect of being accepted will be the one to be the most predominately selected in the influencing a child's future behavior. After learning about their findings and many others, I hope to understand juvenile crime better, but also find out how people understand it in a hope to make an impact on decreasing the crime rate among the youth in the United States.

Thesis Statement:

This paper will attempt to address the ongoing problems of juvenile crime in the United States and what is the underlining motive behind them. To accomplish this task, this paper will look at different sociological theories combined with some field research to see what characteristics play a part in creating criminals. The main theories that will be utilized are Merton's Strain theory, Rohner's parental acceptance-rejection theory, also known as the "PAR Theory", and Durkheim's "malintegration" or anomie theory. This paper will expand on the knowledge learned in *Childhood Deviance: The Making of a Killer*, which focused on the forces in childhood that could turn a child into a deviant who developed a desire to kill. This paper will shed light on the motives behind juvenile crime and the beliefs adults have about the condition of youth crime. There are many approaches to youth crime prevention, but I believe the impact is lessened when the perspective of the populous does not match the educational understanding of youth crime

causation. Knowledge is key to the success of ending juvenile crime and as an effect on adult crime as well.

Hypothesis:

In dealing with the children who turn to a life of crime, I hypothesize that there will be many problems that will seem to link to this issue. I expect to find while researching juvenile delinquency in the United States, that an individual's family, poverty level, gender, and education will all take part in the creation of criminal offenders. I also expect to find that low-income individuals and those with family problems, like single parent homes, will be prevalent in the life histories of the lives of criminal youths. In addition, I expect to find that the adults who are criminal offenders started out as juvenile offenders and had a history of abuse and or neglect before they ended up in the criminal justice system. I also expect to find that the public perception of juvenile crime will not match the research findings of the scholars who dedicated their research on its prevention and understanding.

Literature Review:

To seek out the results I needed, I studied the works of James Garbarino, Robert Preston Rohner, Jack Levin, Eric Madfis, Richard N. Kocsis and many others. By reading their research I learned that many of their research results point out that there is not just one single list of behaviors that turn children violent. Instead, there is an overwhelming number of several risk factors that play a part in a child turning delinquent. It is when these risk factors add up in one child's life that can and has led to that child's future violent behavior. Emile Durkheim explains one of these risk factors in the concept of his anomie theory. Durkheim explains his concept of anomie, and how it relates to deviance, as being ultimately

“caused by the failure of society (or its organs) to regulate individual goals adequately. The absence of such regulation is what Durkheim means by anomie. ... The absence of society does not free individuals to satisfy their universal desires in the most expedient manner. Rather, the absence of society leads individuals to develop unlimited or unattainable goals, and the failure to achieve these goals leads to ‘anger and all the emotions customarily associated with disappointment’ (Eargle & Esmail, 2016)

This understanding of the anomie theory explains one of the traits of an adolescent killer. That trait is a lack of any normal emotional bonds that would typically tie them to society making them feel a part of the larger whole. This means that a child will develop Durkheim’s notion of anomie when they do not have enough social ties to those around them or society, so they feel like loners or as outcasts from society. This frame of mind leads to a feeling of isolated and a sense of disconnection from the world emotionally.

Also explaining these risk factors is the work of Richard N. Kocsis. Kocsis recognized Merton’s Strain theory as a way to isolate and identify several other risk factors that lead to the choice to murder. Kocsis states “scholars have found that individuals at risk of committing, or who have committed, homicide are likely to be members of socially dysfunctional families, live in substandard economic conditions, and tend to use drugs and alcohol and to behave anti-socially” (Kocsis, 2007, p. 5). These risk factors all create a type of social or emotional strain on the individual experiencing them. In fact, all these factors are indeed a part of the strain theory. It is not a secret that adolescence is an important stage of life that has a predominant impact on the development of the characteristics that adults possess. Therefore, when these risk factors impact a young child, they have more of a negative effect than when they affect an adult. Studies have

shown that what happens to a child before adolescence is of an even greater importance to the development of either healthy or violent behaviors than if the same stressors influenced a teenager or adult. In fact, studies have shown that children are far more likely to “become traumatized and display signs of post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, by events that happen to them as children rather than as teenagers or adults; 56% of children compared to 18% of teens and adults” (Garbarino, 2008). This shows the influence negative experiences have on the psychological well-being of a child. Children are not as capable of recovering from negative influences as adults or teenagers as is seen in these numbers. Children do not possess the same level of adaptability or coping skills as teenagers or adults.

The results of some of these studies are explained in the many works of Robert P. Rohner and James Garbarino. Rohner developed what he called the PAR theory. This PAR theory is based on the concept of acceptance. The acceptance of parents to be exact. Both Rohner and Garbarino go into depth about the importance of parental acceptance to a child. Rohner explains how important it is for a child to feel accepted by their family and in turn by their society around them. Studies have shown the importance a feeling of acceptance is to a child or juvenile. Jack Levin and Eric Madfis conducted a study on the history of school shooters to see if there was any evidence rejection in their lives. They found that “chronic rejection of the shooters was present in at least 13 of the 15 school shooting cases they examined” (Levin & Madfis, 2009, p. 1230). Levin and Madfis pointed out that in almost half of every school shooter incident there was found to be a history of homes wrought with conflict and in almost every case the shooter had been “physically bullied, teased, humiliated, or ignored by their fellow schoolmates on a regular basis” (Levin & Madfis, 2009, p. 1231). These studies showed that it is when this acceptance is lacking, and a child becomes the recipient of rejection, that the child can, and often does, turn to crime. In fact, it is

often found that the children suffer from what Ronald Rohner called “psychological malignancy” (Rohner, 1986). This means that the rejection a child feels can cause a psychological deterioration in their mental health. This deterioration mimics how malignant cancer spreads throughout the body. Like malignant cancer, so too will psychological damage spread throughout the child’s whole being. It is this effect that is the primary focus of the PAR theory in addition to the psychological importance of a child’s wellbeing,

Garbarino expanded on the foundation of the PAR theory and found that children have three basic needs that have to be met for them to thrive as a teenager and then as an adult. These basic needs are described as spiritual, physical, and psychological (Garbarino, 2008). It is when any of these three elements are out of balance that the move towards crime takes place. Garbarino explains why the PAR theory is so important when he says “the role of child maltreatment in setting off a chain of events that leads to problems with antisocial violence and aggression in childhood that become the basis for lifelong problems with antisocial and criminal behavior, what is called conduct disorder in the psychiatric field” (Garbarino, 2008, p. 44). This means when a child is diagnosed with a conduct disorder, they will have a history of maltreatment or a lack of acceptance by their guardians. Garbarino explains that these disorders are important identifiers of a child who is or has been abused. Abuse will, in many children, cause a child to display a “chronic pattern of aggression, bad behavior, acting out, and violating the rights of others. Thus, the violation of human rights, that is child maltreatment becomes the basis for perpetuating and extending human rights violations to others” (Garbarino, 2008, p. 45). In other words, the child develops a very negative view of the world around them and determines the best way to navigate the negative world is by using force in the form of violence. Often times this resort to violence is a direct result of the violence they have themselves experienced. This is further seen in a study

conducted by Eargle and Esmail that they conducted on mass school shootings. Eargle and Esmail wanted to focus on the school shootings that ended in suicide. This study showed that “there was a prominent association with the narcissistic personality condition” (Eargle & Esmail, 2016) as described by Durkheim’s 1987 study on suicide. Eargle and Esmail along with their associates conducted in-depth studies on 4 school shootings between the years 2003 and 2013 to learn more about the shooters’ history. What they found was a link between the shooters who took their own life after they carried out their mass shooting and the psychological diagnosis of narcissism. Narcissism is what is called an “egotistic suicide” (Eargle & Esmail, 2016). The most violent form of this type of suicide results in the form of murder-suicide. Individuals who have this form of egotistic suicide tend to be “characterized by a state of depression and apathy, where the individual lacks a desire to live. This state of “egoism” is said to occur when “the individual ego asserts itself to excess in the face of the social ego” (Eargle & Esmail, 2016, p. 627). What Eargle and Esmail are saying is that the ego is an important part of a child’s decision to commit a crime, particularly the crime of murder-suicide. They explain that narcissists have a damaged ego to the point that they lack any normal connections to society and have failed to create a social ego. When the social ego is destroyed or never created, as the PAR theory talks about in a child’s feelings of being accepted, the child is then free of the social norms preventing crimes like taking the life of another human being.

However, studies have shown that parental neglect or abuse does not only cause violent acts like murder but other criminal behaviors as well. Many studies conducted by sociologists have focused on the role fathers play in the motives of child delinquency. They have determined that a good, healthy, and strong father-child relationship will lower the risk of childhood criminality. In these studies, the role of fathers in “promoting their children's delinquent behaviors has been

primarily examined in respect to two issues: the quality of the father-child relationship and father absence. Researchers have found that high-quality father-child relationships are associated with lower rates of offending and substance use in adolescence (Simmons, Steinberg, Frick, & Cauffman, 2018). This means that when a child is found to be delinquent, the history of their family relations is toxic in most cases. When we look at these numbers closer, we see that there are more delinquent children coming out of the homes of a single mother than out of homes where the child has a good mother and father relationship. The researchers Simmons, Steinberg, Frick, and Cauffman set out to see if there was a difference between a child having no father figure and a bad father figure. The results of their studies have been enlightening. They found that “the negative binomial regressions indicate that youth with harsh fathers showed a higher rate of delinquency than youth with absent fathers, even after accounting for the mother-child relationship. Youth with harsh fathers reported engaging in more offending behaviors and using more substances than youth with absent fathers” (Simmons, Steinberg, Frick, & Cauffman, 2018). That the presence of a step-father who is a good rolemodel and establishes a positive father-child relationship has as large of an impact as a biological father. This is important because it shows how important a father figure is to the health and wellbeing of a child. That even when the child has a positive mother-child relationship, they can still turn to a life of crime if they have a bad father relationship. It also showed that having a harsh, abusive, or negative father in the child’s life will attribute to more delinquent behaviors than a child who does not have a father.

The studies and others clearly show the importance of a safe and healthy home environment is to preventing childhood delinquency. The psychological factors of a child also can play a part. Sometimes these factors are outside the control and influence of a parent. In studies conducted by Caspi and Moffitt explain this biological difference and how it can be overcome in some cases.

During their research, Caspi and Moffitt discovered a difference in the genes of a child who displayed risky or criminal behaviors and those that did not. They found this personality difference was associated with a particular gene called the monoamine oxidase A, also known as the MAOA gene. During their genetic research, they found that this MAOA gene is either turned on or turned off in every person. In other studies, this gene has been linked to aggression and a condition called monoamine oxidase A deficiency. Caspi and Moffitt found that:

if abused children have the MAOA gene turned off, about 85% develop conduct disorder. If they are abused and have the gene turned on, the figure is about 40%. If the MAOA gene is turned off and the child is not abused, the rate of conduct disorder is about 20%. If the gene is turned on and there is no abuse, the rate is 20% (Garbarino, 2008, p. 46).

Further studies showed that about 30% of all children who develop conduct disorders end up as violent adult offenders. However, among children who grow up in violent or antisocial neighborhoods the percentage jumps to 60%, and if the child has the MAOA gene turned off, the number increases to 90% (Garbarino, 2008, p. 46). These numbers should give anyone pause. They show without a doubt the impact abuse and neglect have on the choices a child makes in their life; whether they will turn to a life of crime or live a life of a productive and well-balanced member of society all depends on the early years of a child's life. That genes can be overcome and that the true important deciding factor in a child becoming a delinquent is the safety, acceptance, and well-established relationships to their parents.

Methodology:

To learn more about childhood deviance and the choices involved in the decision to commit a crime and how people understand these choices, I first turned to the wealth of knowledge in the Texas Tech University library's website. I found a plethora of reliable books and peer-reviewed journal articles that would help answer the questions I needed to be answered. I also took advantage of my access to Amazon to look for trusted books by known authors discovered in the Texas Tech Library. All the references that I gathered came from peer-reviewed journal articles or educational books that were written by authors with a high ethos that I retrieved directly from a publisher. These books and articles provide scientific findings that back their work. To add to the research that has already been conducted, I also set out to find my own answers. To gather this new information, I decided to utilize the more positivistic research method of surveys. Due to my time constraint and the kinds of information I needed, a survey would allow me to get many more answers than the anti-positive method of interviewing. By using an online survey, that I could digitally send to people and post on popular social media sites e.g. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Google+, I was able to gather 60 survey results to analyze instead of only a handful of interviews. Also, had I only interviewed people I would have been limited to have the feelings and ideas of the people in my local area who I could physically interview. By utilizing an online survey, I was able to broaden my research subjects to the entire world. By doing this I gathered results from people who lived in the United Kingdom, Russia, Canada, Bavaria, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, Malaysia, Germany, and many states across the USA.

To gather the data I needed, I made sure my survey was full of targeted questions I could use to answer my questions regarding the motivations behind juvenile crimes. The survey I

developed can be found in the appendix below as well as the graphs created from the data I collected. I also analyzed data from the FBI on juvenile crime.

Results:

After analyzing the data from my survey, I discovered that of the people who took the survey, 2 out of 3 of them were women, with only 2 people not revealing their gender. Most of the participants identified as Caucasian/White, with less than 10 participants identifying as another race, and only 2 not wanting to indicate their race. If there were any responders that were of any black race, they did not specify. The age group of 25-34 years was the largest age group to respond, with about 40% of the responders being in this age group. This was true for both men and women. The next most responsive age was the group of 18-24 years. There were 3 in the age group of 12-17, 6 in the age group of 45-54, and 3 in the 55-64 age group, which was more than expected in the older age groups. The survey managed to get a decent number of responses from almost every age group and had responders from several countries around the world.

Their responses to the questions revealed that around 2 out of 3 people believe that crime is a problem in their country and state, but only 1 out of 2 people believing that crime is a problem in their city. When asked if they themselves had participated in a crime, the question revealed some unexpected answers. Of the women who participated, only about 30% said that they had never participated in a crime, and 50% of the male responders said that they had never participated in a crime. Only 12 of the women admitted to committing a crime and 7 of those were never caught. Of the men who responded, 6 admitted to committing a crime with only 3 of them not getting caught. About 22% of those who took the survey admitted to committing a crime, and 33% admitted that someone they knew had committed a crime. With that level of survey participants admitting to either being involved or knowing someone who was involved in a crime, it is

surprising that only about 50% of those who took the survey believe that juvenile crime is on the rise, which could be a reflection of their experiences. Despite this, 6 of those who committed a crime did not believe that juvenile crime was on the rise.

The people who took the survey believe that the juveniles who decide to commit crimes will choose: 75% believe alcohol abuse; 40% believe assault, auto theft, and burglary; 50% believe destruction of property; 34% believe disorderly conduct; 38% believe drug abuse; 25% believe gang violence; 10% believe murder/homicide; 16% believe armed robbery; 43% believe theft; and 3.4% either believe they will commit sexual assault of some kind or they have no idea what crimes the juveniles will commit. On the average, most who took the survey believe that about 33% of the juveniles will commit. The choice to commit crimes that directly harm an individual, about 51% will commit a crime involving property, and about 65% of the juveniles will commit some form of crime against themselves or society. The choice to commit crimes that directly harm another individual is alarmingly high. The responders admitted that 25% of them had already witnessed a crime and that 7% had been a victim of a crime, which correlates with what they expect juveniles to commit. Chances are that the crimes that were witnessed and experienced were crimes against another individual.

The responders to the survey did not specify if it was their experiences or if it was just their opinion, but they indicated that the main contributing factors to juveniles committing crimes were parental neglect or abuse, a bad or poor home environment, poverty in the home and/or community, psychological abuse, lack of discipline in the child's life, and overall lack of structure and a caring environment in the child's life. Some of them expressed that peer influences, the lack of maturity, the thrill of committing a crime, incomplete brain development, poor or improper education, not understanding consequences, mental health, gangs, boredom, and rebellion were also factors. Most

all of the people who took the survey expressed that it was the environmental aspects of the child's life that caused a negative psychological influence on the mental health of the child.

The responders were also asked about the influences of the methods used to correct or rehabilitate them, if they were caught, and what methods they believed would be more helpful in rehabilitating juveniles who commit crimes so that they will stop their criminal activities. In their responses the majority believe that methods other than incarceration work best. They listed services like Counseling, residential treatment centers, electronic monitoring, probation, education program targeting crime prevention, and community service as having the greatest impact on them changing their lives. They expressed that these methods are the best methods for helping juveniles stop committing crimes. Less than half of those responding recommend punitive actions like juvenile detention centers, boot camp, home confinement or house arrest, removal from home and placement with another guardian, secured juvenile facilities, and adult jail were beneficial in preventing future juvenile crimes.

FBI Statistics

I studied charts and statistics for juvenile offenders under the age of 19. What I found was that most offenders between the years of 2005-2015 were male offenders with female offenders accounting for only about 10% or less of the juveniles arrested. This pattern was consistent throughout the entire 11-year period. When looking at the races involved in those crimes I found that Blacks were responsible for the majority of crimes. The percentage of black juveniles committing crimes between the years of 2005-2015, varied from 55% to 80% of the juveniles arrested for crimes. The White juveniles who committed crimes varied from 30% to 40%, other races varied from 3% to 5%, with unknown race accounting for about 0.5% to 1% of juvenile offenders.

When looking at the murder- offender to victim ratio, I found that the single offender to single victim was the highest for all of the years from 2008-2015, with a little under 7,000 for 2008, and slowly decreasing to a little under 6,000 for 2013, and then rising back up to a little over 6,100 for 2015. Single offender with multiple victims varied between 500-900 for the years 2008-2015. Multiple offenders with a single victim varied between 1500 and 1900 during the years 2008-2015, and multiple offenders with multiple victims varied between 100-200. An unknown number of offenders with a single victim had the second highest number of occurrences varying between 4,200-3,500 from 2008-2015 with both 2008 and 2015 being about 4,200. Unknown offenders with multiple victims varied between 300-600.

When looking at the ages of the victims and the offenders, I found that juvenile victims from juvenile or unknown offenders was the lowest occurring statistic, with only around 150 or less occurrences for the years from 2005-2015. Victims over 18 with juvenile offenders was at least double for all of the same years, with adult offenders on adult victims being the highest with numbers ranging between 4,500-6,000. Adult offenders with juvenile victims varied between 400-900. These statistics show that juvenile offenders sometimes carry on doing crimes into adulthood, and that it is entirely likely that the majority of children who have terrible childhoods wait until they reach adulthood before they start committing crimes, or that they were not caught while they were juveniles.

Conclusion:

Therefore, after café study, review of the results of past research, the writings of other criminologist, and reviewing the results of my survey it can be seen that education and a stable home are both key in preventing juvenile delinquency. In the words of Asscher and his fellow researchers “rehabilitation programs, particularly those based on specific needs of the offender,

are helpful in reducing criminal activity. Moreover, it seems likely that rehabilitation programs might be most advantageous when educational outcomes are also improved” (Asscher, Assink, de Vries, Hoeve, & Stams, 2015). This means that there is the need for educational interventions to be incorporated into every delinquency program regardless of the setting in which it takes place e.g. detention center, correctional facility, boot camp, etc. There has always been a clear link between education and criminality, i.e. as education increases criminality decreases. That even such things as a gene that increases the odds of criminality can be overcome with the proper care, education, and family environment. Therefore, in order for the United States, or any other nation, to appropriately win the war against crime they must establish child rights, safeguard their youth, and provide them with an adequate education. Because the most effective way to combat juvenile delinquency is by utilizing an effective prevention program. Prevention is by far the first and most important step in decreasing the juvenile delinquency. All of these prevention programs must be created to address the risk factors that have been found to be linked to juvenile delinquency. Only then will we be able to decrease the rate of juvenile delinquent behavior throughout the United States. This prevention requires establishing guidelines, laws, statutes, and customs that address the known causes of juvenile delinquency, e.g. child abuse, neglect, poverty, and broken homes.

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Appendices:

Consent form:

What is this project studying?

The study is examining what leads to Juvenile crime and the best methods of preventing future crime. What I learn may help people, and I hope to turn this into my final paper for my research methods class. There is no compensation for participating.

What would I do if I participate?

You would participate in a 5-15-minute survey that asks questions about your thoughts, opinions, and experiences with juvenile crime. This survey will be kept on record, but none of the questions can be used to identify you.

Can I quit if I become uncomfortable?

Yes, absolutely. You can stop answering the survey questions at any time and submit the answers you filled in. Participating is your choice.

How long will participation take?

We are asking for about 5-15 minutes of your time depending on how long it takes to answer all the survey questions.

How are you protecting privacy?

The recorded survey answers will be immediately (within 48 hours) downloaded into a password protected and secure area of the researcher's computer and the results on the digital website being used are password also protected. Additionally, any specific mention of what you say on the survey will be completely anonymous and no identifiable questions will be asked. Any notes from these survey answers will also be stored in the same password protected area. Written materials will be stored in a locked drawer and identifiable by survey response numbers only.

I have some questions about this study. Who can I ask?

- The student investigator who asked you to participate may answer any questions. Her name and email address are ILyea Shanz; ILyea.Shanz@ttu.edu
- Also, you may contact the professor of this course, Dr. Maloney, at patricia.maloney@ttu.edu.

Survey and Survey Response Results

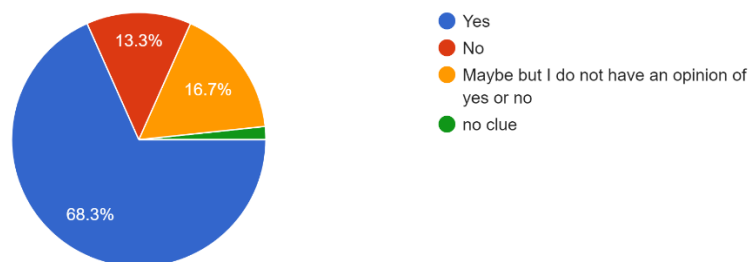
Juvenile Crime Research Questions

Do you feel juvenile crime is a problem in the United States or your country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe but I do not have an opinion of yes or no

Do you feel juvenile crime is a problem in the United States or your country?

60 responses

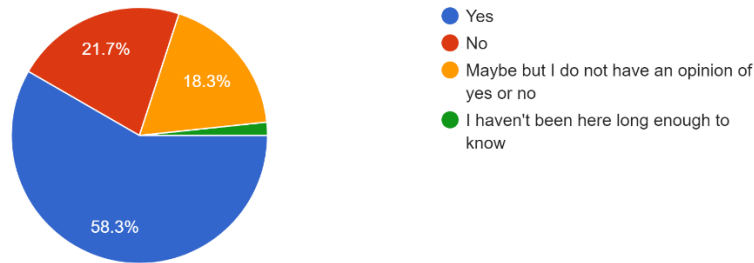


Do you feel juvenile crime is a problem in your state or providence?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe but I do not have an opinion of yes or no

Do you feel juvenile crime is a problem in your state or provedence?

60 responses

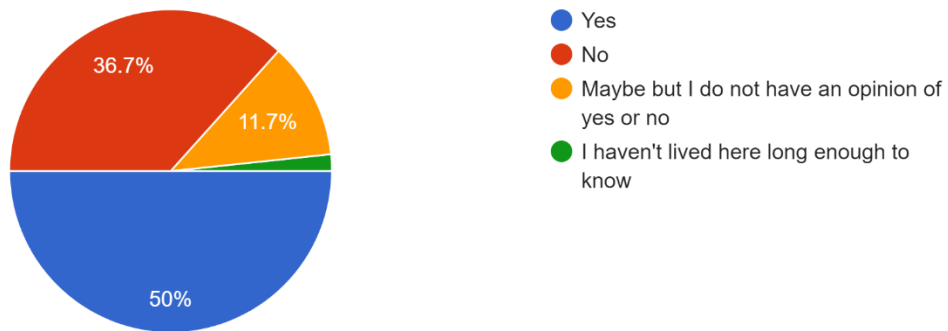


Do you feel juvenile crime is a problem in your city?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe but I do not have an opinion of yes or no

Do you feel juvenile crime is a problem in your city?

60 responses



In what City, State, and Country do you live?

60 responses

Adelaide South Australia
 Anchorage, AK
 Auckland, New Zealand
 Blue Springs, MO
 Canterbury, Kent, UK
 Champaign, IL
 Cork, Ireland
 Fairplay, MO USA -2 responses
 Fall City, WA

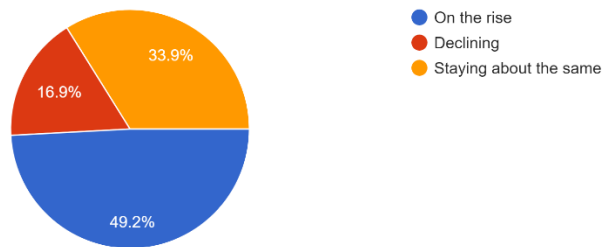
Fayetteville, AR
 Fredericksburg, VA, USA
 Germany, Bavaria
 Germany, city with about 200000 inhabitants
 Greenwood, IN. USA
 IL – 2 responses
 Jefferson City, MO USA
 Joplin MO USA
 Longview, TX, USA
 Lubbock TX -7 responses
 Lynchburg, VA, USA
 Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
 New South Wales Australia
 Nixa, MO US -2 responses
 Phila. PA
 Phoenix, AZ, USA
 Pleasant Hope, MO USA
 Portland, OR, USA
 Puchong, Selangor, Malaysia
 Regensburg, Bavaria
 Riga, Latvia
 Russia
 San Francisco, CA
 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
 Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway
 Springfield, MO US -6 responses
 Sydney, Australia – 2 responses
 UK -2 responses
 USA
 Vienna Austria
 Virginia USA
 Washington, Seattle, USA
 Wellington, Greater Wellington Region, New Zealand

Do you feel the crime rate of juveniles is _____ in the last 10 years?

- ☐ On the rise
- ☐ Declining
- ☐ Staying about the same

Do you feel the crime rate of juveniles is _____ in the last 10 years?

59 responses

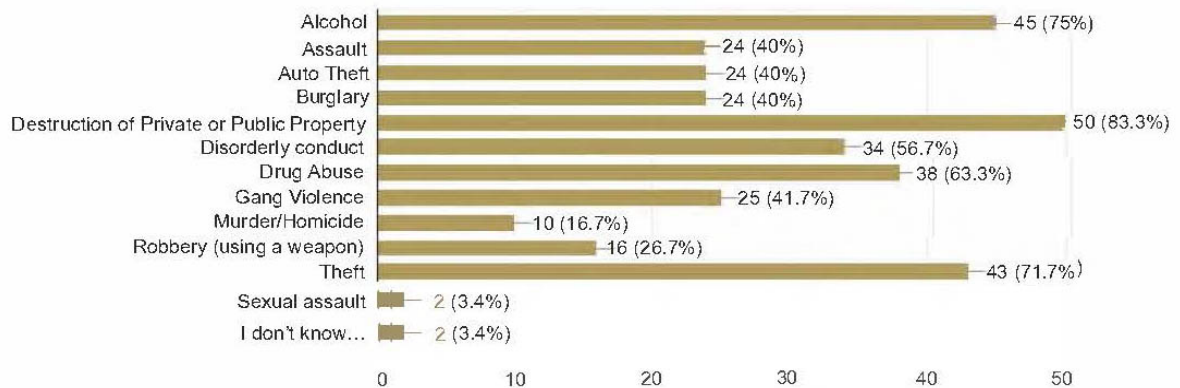


What crimes do you think juveniles are more likely to participate in?

- ☐ Alcohol
- ☐ Assault
- ☐ Auto Theft
- ☐ Burglary
- ☐ Destruction of private or public property (vandalism, tagging, breaking windows)
- ☐ Disorderly conduct such as causing fights in public, etc.
- ☐ Drug Abuse
- ☐ Gang Violence
- ☐ Murder/Homicide
- ☐ Robbery (using a weapon to steal)
- ☐ Theft
- ☐ Sexual Assault

What crimes do you think juveniles are more likely to participate in?

60 responses



Have you been a witness or a victim of a Juvenile crime?

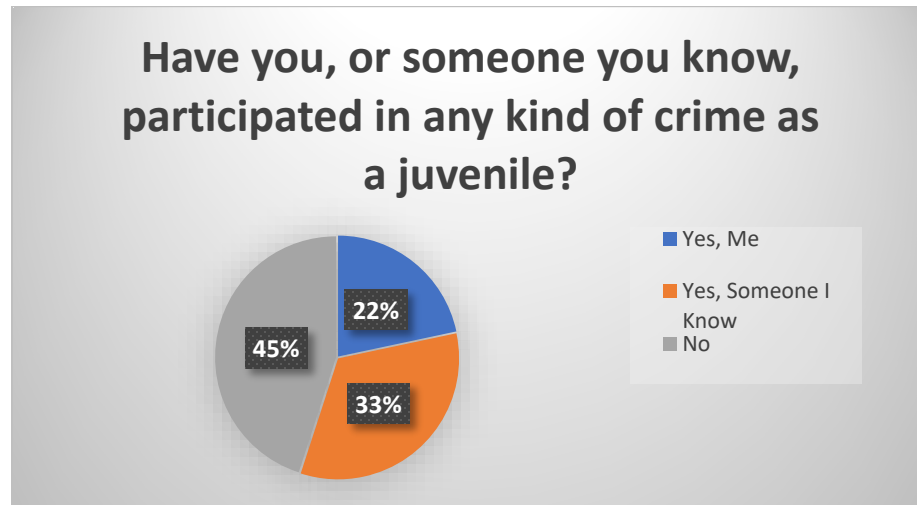
- ☐ Yes, Witness
- ☐ Yes, Victim
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe (not sure if it was a juvenile)
- ☐ Both, Witness and victim



Have you, or someone you know, participated in any kind of crime as a juvenile?

- ☐ Yes, Me
- ☐ Yes, Someone I Know

○ No



What do you feel is the cause of juveniles choosing to commit crimes? (lack of understanding, the thrill, home life, parental neglect, peer influence, etc.) And Why? 58 responses

22 Said – Peer influence, fit in among friends, needing to fit in. Status gaining, to attract or retain mates..

19 Said – Parental neglect. Poor parenting now days makes for unruly kids that commit crimes.

6 Said – All of the above. Mostly factors out of their control. Environmental including teen angst, poverty

8 Said – To get a Thrill

Gang members

2 Said – Untreated/unrecognized mental health issues (and not being treated).

3 Said – Children learn what they live, familial impact, learned behaviour from parents.

3 Said – A lack of understanding of risks and consequences, not sure if it is a guarantor of this behavior

4 Said – Drug and alcohol influence,

6 Said – Home life to make up for their home life (abuse/neglect).

4 Said – Escape, Boredom, too poor to afford entertainment, poor infrastructure for youth programs

Perhaps there was something missing in their lives and this is the path they took to fulfill their need, some feeling relief. Maybe where and/or with whom they lived led them into that life style.

7 Said – Poverty, Low socioeconomic status, lack of providing for them, feeling or actually being poor.

5 Said – Lack of education

I believe power influences.

social media, children raising children, public school system, capitalism

broken home

Multifactorial, generational difference, and kids feel a false entitlement these days

lack of morals

lack of punishment for their crimes

Certain environmental influences. So ultimately (the problem is in the structure of our society.)

2 Said – Lack of brain development or inability to think straight

the area and school they go to

Money, steal to sell, and addiction

They're daft, uneducated, and easily influenced.

I feel its a lack of parental and societal control

I feel there are several factors that may contribute, untreated behavioral health issues, lack of positive role models at home and/or in the community, having friends or family that engage in criminal behavior and/or are incarcerated, lack of community resources (rec centers/after school programs, etc.) that provide children with low cost meaningful activity and lack of religious and/or moral guidance/training. Lack of discipline, lack of fathers being present in homes
 in my case it was a mixture of anger, frustration
 A lot of teenagers understand what they are doing is wrong but not how much it affects their future lives.
 Don't know

What type of home life or atmosphere do you believe contributes to or produces juvenile offenders?

56 responses

17 Said - Abuse (verbal, emotional, and/or physical)
 16 Said – Neglect (emotional or physical) Poor parenting and poor home life
 8 Said - Violence at home
 7 Said - Drug use
 6 Said - Low-income Exceptionally poor
 4 Said - Home without structure or discipline
 3 Said - Father not being in the home, and Single parent homes, Lack of moral teaching
 2 Said - Lack of education, Poor communities, Gang culture, Lack of communication
 2 Said - Social or peer pressure
 A neglected home or great home. It doesn't matter what home life is because people are different and go through different things. Some want to get attention from others.
 Depends on the type of crimes, some offenses are things pretty much everyone is gonna be susceptible.
 Broken homes, broken system, Wedlock births, Obsession with media.
 Being over the top strict and controlling makes young want to rebel.
 Somewhere that maybe has a history of crimes/criminal activity/incarcerated family members
 The more affluent the parents the greater the chance the juvenile will do some kind of act
 Generally speaking an unequal environment creates conflict. So that's what should be avoided.
 Average, all types
 Don't Know

If you have ever committed a crime, what was your motivation, and did you get caught?

45 responses

3 said N/A
 Yes, stole a car was cold and wanted to get home, got caught
 My motivation was being a bored suburban kid who was desperate to be cool and edgy and shoplifting and vandalism seemed fun. oh. and i drank when i was a teenager in the us, which is also a crime, i guess.
 my motivation for that was a teenage feeling of 'your laws are idiotic fuck you'. Never got caught
 Coercion from abusive partner, low-income family (needs not being met otherwise)
 I pirate movies because I'm too poor to rent them or they aren't available to buy.
 4 said the thrill of it, not caught
 15 said No
 I have not committed a violent crime
 Escape, No
 I committed a lot of crimes when I was young. Most of them were related to drugs and alcohol. My motivation was just trying to have fun with my friends for the most part. I got caught a couple of times.
 Yes, it was a misdemeanor and it was lack of trust, got caught

Yes, fun, no

I wanted clothes and no I didn't get caught

I stole a chewing gum when I was 12, did not get caught, still feel bad about it

2 said Yes, had no money, not caught

Impulse, no

Why do you think some juveniles stop committing crimes as they age, and others do not?

56 responses

Some find a sense of belonging others don't

The enjoyment and thrill of committing crimes.

Maybe the ones getting the thrills doesn't feel it anymore and realizes there is more to life. While the ones who feel relief, still need what they are doing.

people grow up. some have the sort of safety net to guide them into responsible adulthood, some don't.

Becoming self-reliant and receiving mental healthcare services, or alternatively, losing support and falling into worse conditions

I think whether juveniles stop committing crimes depends on if the cons outweigh the pros.

Realizing risks aren't worth rewards, no crime is victimless, an increase in empathy probably helps too.

No more peer pressure

Jail or grow out of it

I think some get caught early and realize that what they are doing is wrong. I think some find a good mentor and others just continue on the same path because they have no reason to stop.

They're busy, less boredom

Some born into a family with a criminal history, others going through a phase and will stop if caught

Addictive personalities

Some learn empathy or have the capacity for empathy and grow to see their negative impact on others, others don't

I am truly not sure.

4 Said - Maturity

They grow up, and some never do.

Experience and empathy

Depends

Support system, education, how they were raised, financial, developed brain

The ones that don't never learn coping mechanisms, internal locus of control and consequences. Or they think none of it applies to them

They grow up and learn from mistakes

The frontal lobe developed

Greater opportunity for loss

If they don't get caught keep doing crimes

Opportunities, maturity, learned from their mistake

The punishment outweighs the thrill

For some, the pay-off after cost decreases such that it is no longer worth it.

People who continue to commit crimes are not afraid of consequences and are focused on their want or need in that moment. For many I believe it's the only survival technique they know.

Some were maybe influenced by peers when younger, but some may have genuinely been bad

Parent/adult peer intervention.

Some are born criminals, and some are stupid kids.

They get smarter and decide they don't want that kind of life

Mentoring

Probably because they get it out of there system

Because some grow a sense of maturity and realize that doing crimes doesn't get you anywhere

Some people have a person come into their lives that make a difference

3 Said – Some figure out that what they're doing is wrong, others don't

People have different personalities.

fear of job security, criminal record, reaching an age where they can be imprisoned

they grow up, move away, or are in jail

Because they realized that doesn't do much good for them overall probably. Others might be "better" at committing crimes. (Not getting caught, etc.)

Psychological trauma

Environment, mental disorder

Some people mature as they grow older, some don't. Some are also in deeper holes of

addiction/poverty/abuse than others.

Different brain chemistry and life experiences

Lots of factors. not going to write an essay

They gain emotional intelligence

Mature and realize the consequences

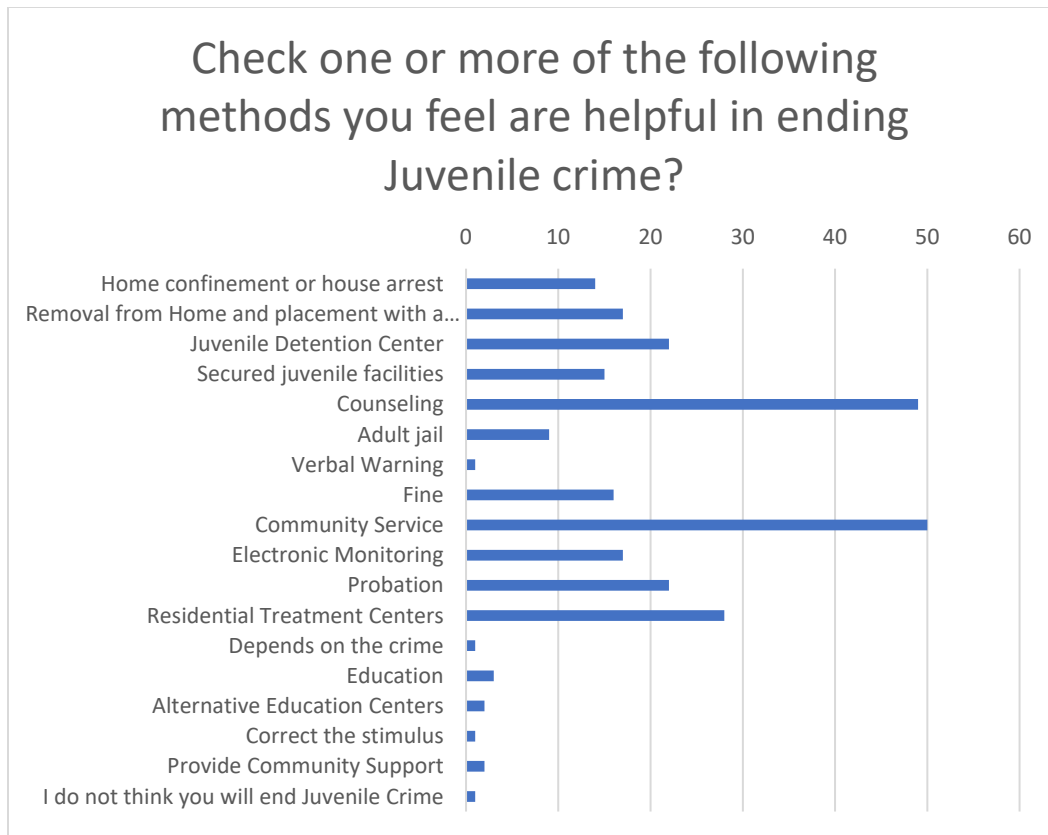
Most people I know stop when they have children of their own. Some just grow out of it. The people I know who are older and still act this way are usually mentally ill or very emotionally immature.

Some get hooked on thrill, some for money, some don't have any way to get things they think they need.

Hopefully, they have stopped b/c they have received appropriate interventions.

Check one or more of the following methods you feel are helpful in ending Juvenile crime?

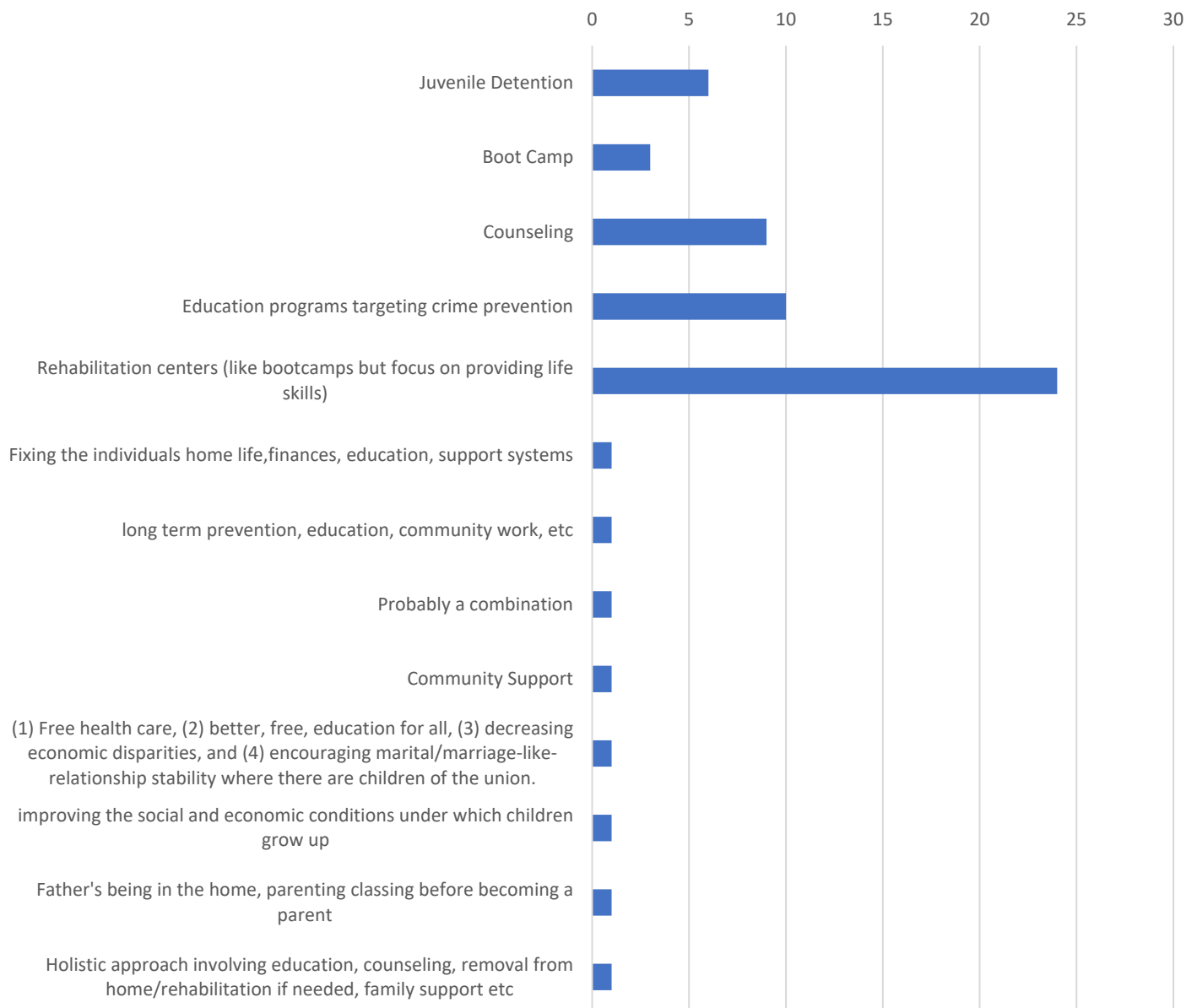
- Home confinement or house arrest
- Removal from Home and placement with a different guardian
- Juvenile Detention Center
- Secured juvenile facilities
- Counseling
- Adult jail
- Fine
- Community Service
- Electronic Monitoring
- Probation
- Residential Treatment Centers



What do you feel is the best method for ending juvenile crime?

- Juvenile Detention
- Boot Camp
- Counseling
- Education programs targeting crime prevention
- Rehabilitation centers (like bootcamps but focus on providing life skills)

What do you feel is the best method for ending juvenile crime?

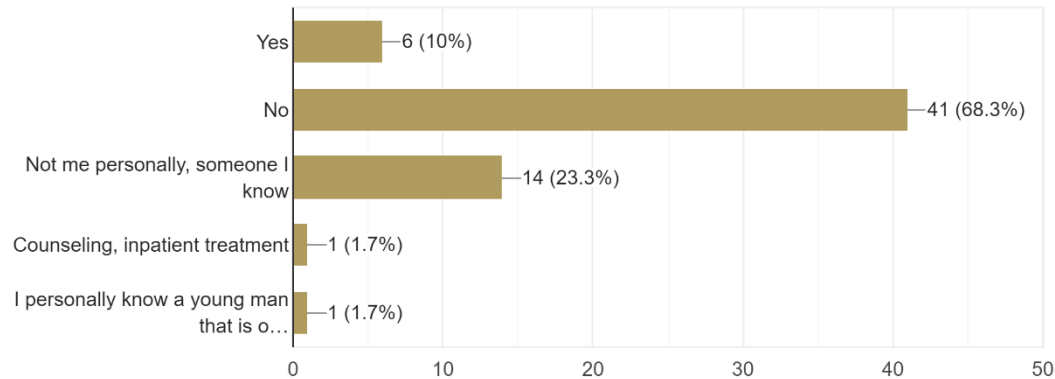


Do you have any personal experiences with any of the above juvenile crime sentencing options?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Me Personally, Someone I Know

Do you have any personal experiences with any of the above juvenile crime sentencing options?

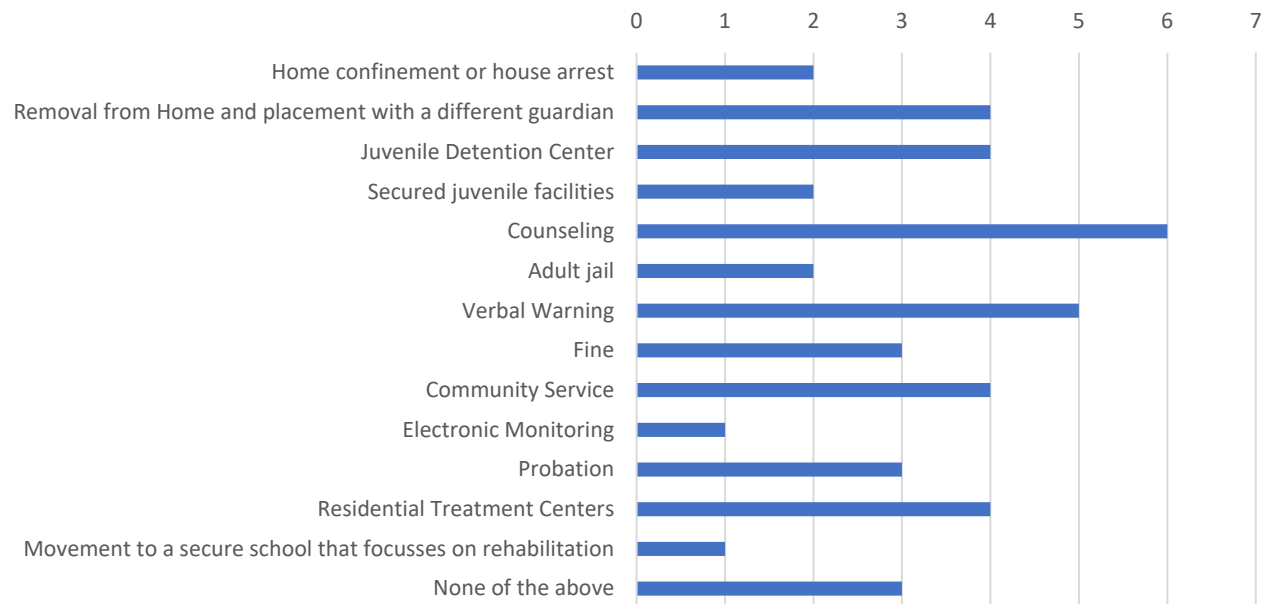
60 responses



If you answered yes to the last questions, please provide which type of juvenile sentencing you personally experienced. Check all that apply.

- ☐ Home confinement or house arrest
- ☐ Removal from Home and placement with a different guardian
- ☐ Juvenile Detention Center
- ☐ Secured juvenile facilities
- ☐ Counseling
- ☐ Adult jail
- ☐ Verbal Warning
- ☐ Fine
- ☐ Community Service
- ☐ Electronic Monitoring
- ☐ Probation
- ☐ Residential Treatment Centers

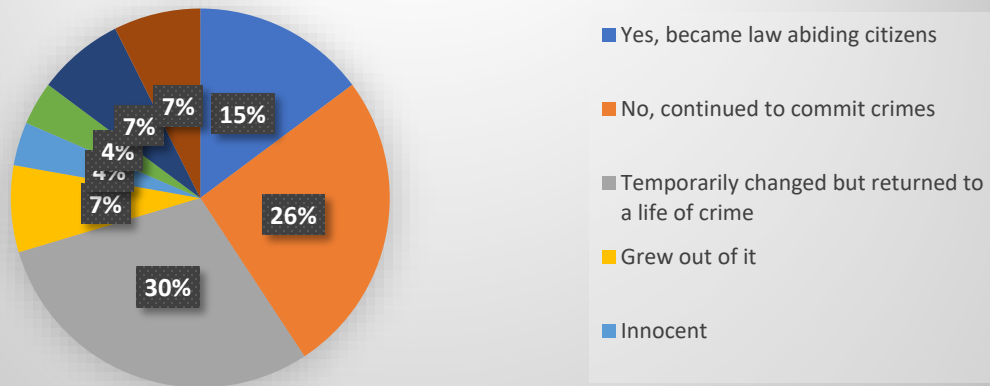
If you answered yes to the last questions, please provide which type of juvenile sentencing you personally experienced. Check all that apply.



In your experience, did the treatment for you/them succeed in preventing future crime?

- Yes, became law abiding citizens
- No, continued to commit crimes
- Temporarily changed but returned to a life of crime

In your experience, did the treatment for you/them succeed in preventing future crime?

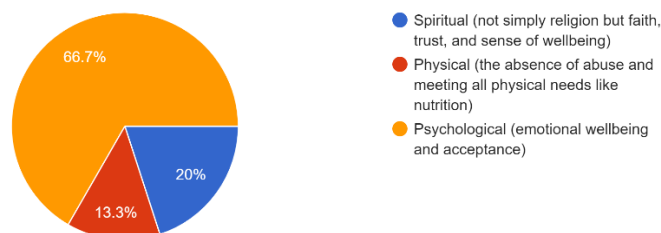


A researcher named James Garbarino described three basic needs that must be met in order for a child to develop into a thriving teenager and later a successful adult. These basic needs are spiritual, physical, and psychological. Garbarino stated that if any of these elements are out of alignment the child will lack the basic skills to avoid the temptation of a life of crime. Which of these three areas do you feel has the greatest impact on a child choosing to commit crimes?

- Spiritual (not simply religion but faith, trust, and sense of wellbeing)
- Physical (the absence of abuse and meeting all physical needs like nutrition)
- Psychological (emotional wellbeing and acceptance)

A researcher named James Garbarino described three basic needs that must be met in order for a child to de...on a child choosing to commit crimes?

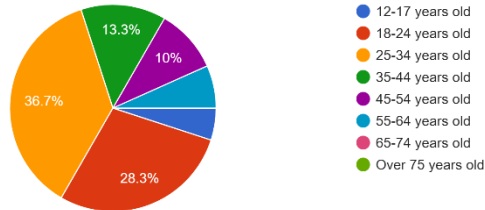
60 responses



How old are you?

- ☐ 12-17 years old
- ☐ 18-24 years old
- ☐ 25-34 years old
- ☐ 35-44 years old
- ☐ 45-54 years old
- ☐ 55-64 years old
- ☐ 65-74 years old
- ☐ Over 75 years old

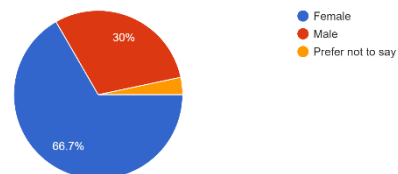
How old are you?
60 responses



What was your biological sex at birth?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to say

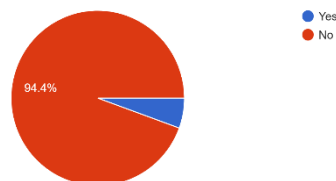
What was your biological sex at birth?
60 responses



Do you identify as a different gender than your sex?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you identify as a different gender than your birth sex?
54 responses

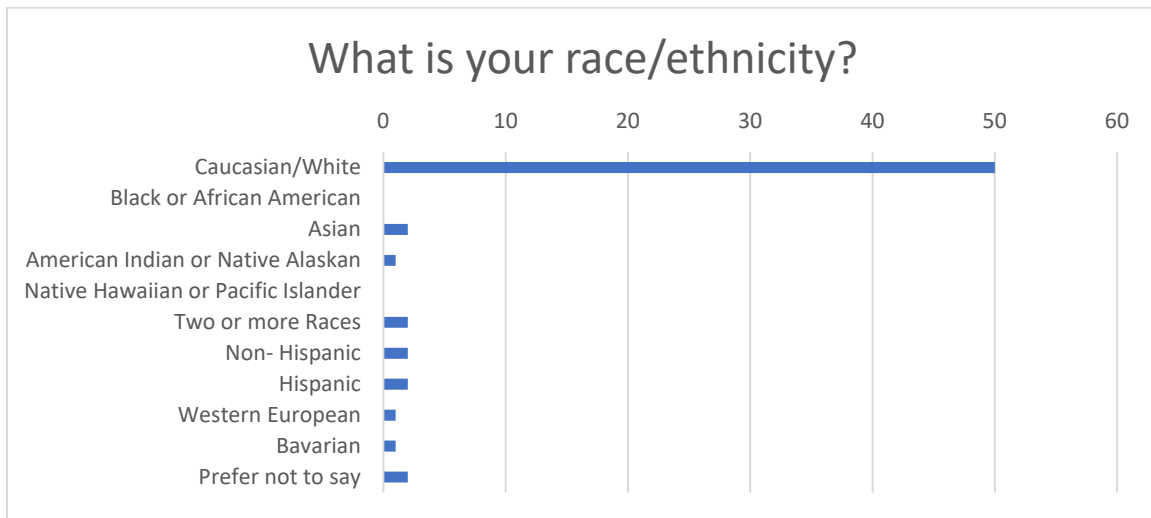


birth

What is your race/ethnicity?

- ☐ Caucasian/White

- Black or African American
- Asian
- American Indian or Native Alaskan
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Two or more Races
- Non- Hispanic
- Hispanic
- Prefer not to say



Comment with your Survey Tandem User name for verification. Ignore if you are not a Survey Tandem subscriber **8 responses**

Mandy11	Researcher1
Autumn	Johnstee
Jessica	Geodreda
Elvishloremaster	Rossalee

Statistical Graphs Used

Age	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Under 18-Total	944	1,111	1,063	951	923	802	695	618	595	653	667
Under 18-Male	866	1,030	981	870	850	726	633	557	558	594	616
Under 18-Female	76	78	80	80	73	76	57	55	35	50	51
Under 18-Unknown-Sex	2	3	2	1	0	0	5	6	2	9	0
Under 18-White	356	387	372	381	353	272	254	234	209	255	236
Under 18-Black	552	676	663	534	539	497	410	358	370	372	412
Under 18-Other	31	35	21	31	27	22	20	10	8	10	14
Under 18-Unknown-Race									8	16	5
Under 18-Hispanic									111	111	104
Under 18-Not-Hispanic									137	204	269
Under 18 Unknown-Ethnicity	5	13	7	5	4	11	11	16	51	67	91
1 to 4-Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 4-Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 4-Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 4-Unknown-Sex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 4-White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 4-Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 4-Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 4 Unknown-Race		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 4-Hispanic									0	0	0
1 to 4-Not-Hispanic	0								0	0	0
1 to 4-Unknown-Ethnicity									0	0	0
5 to 8-Total	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	3	0	2
5 to 8-Male	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	3	0	1
5 to 8-Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
5 to 8-Unknown-Sex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 to 8-White	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	1
5 to 8-Black	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	1

5 to 8-Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 to 8 Unknown-Race		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 to 8-Hispanic									0	0	0
5 to 8-Not-Hispanic	0								2	0	0
5 to 8-Unknown-Ethnicity									0	0	1
9 to 12-Total	11	12	10	9	10	9	14	20	11	8	9
9 to 12-Male	7	10	8	8	9	6	12	15	11	8	8
9 to 12-Female	4	2	2	1	1	3	0	4	0	0	1
9 to 12-Unknown-Sex	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
9 to 12-White	6	3	4	4	5	6	6	8	6	5	4
9 to 12-Black	5	8	5	5	5	3	6	7	5	3	5
9 to 12-Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
9 to 12 Unknown-Race		1	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0
9 to 12-Hispanic									0	1	2
9 to 12-Not-Hispanic	0								5	1	2
9 to 12-Unknown-Ethnicity									0	1	2
13 to 16-Total	467	610	542	496	465	437	327	326	288	323	341
13 to 16-Male	426	560	493	447	422	395	295	295	265	291	320
13 to 16-Female	41	47	47	48	43	42	29	26	21	29	21
13 to 16-Unknown-Sex	0	3	2	1	0	0	3	5	2	3	0
13 to 16-White	176	213	187	197	186	153	128	125	104	139	119
13 to 16-Black	272	377	344	272	264	265	177	188	173	172	210
13 to 16-Other	17	14	7	22	13	13	14	3	5	7	9
13 to 16 Unknown-Race		6	4	5	2	6	8	10	6	5	3
13 to 16-Hispanic									45	65	54
13 to 16-Not-Hispanic	2								64	109	147
13 to 16-Unknown-Ethnicity									30	29	44
17 to 19-Total	1,801	1,990	1,966	1,772	1,765	1,575	1,487	1,278	1,227	1,234	1,263
17 to 19-Male	1,676	1,885	1,843	1,632	1,642	1,445	1,371	1,172	1,123	1,128	1,143
17 to 19-Female	123	105	122	138	123	130	116	106	102	98	119
17 to 19-Unknown-Sex	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	8	1

17 to 19-White	654	707	699	673	638	533	499	452	399	436	442
17 to 19-Black	1,075	1,207	1,202	1,038	1,077	994	946	800	808	758	784
17 to 19-Other	59	61	48	44	36	33	34	16	13	19	28
17 to 19 Unknown-Race		15	17	17	14	15	8	10	7	21	9
17 to 19-Hispanic									183	192	193
17 to 19-Not- Hispanic	13								314	409	527
17 to 19- Unknown- Ethnicity									78	125	156
Unknown-Age- Total	5,731	5,723	5,831	5,402	4,991	4,847	4,653	4,867	4,674	4,486	5,203
Unknown-Age- Male	1,056	991	971	884	813	804	751	828	730	536	610
Unknown-Age- Female	29	20	28	20	27	9	8	12	15	28	20
Unknown-Age- Unknown-Sex	4,646	4,712	4,832	4,498	4,151	4,034	3,894	4,027	3,929	3,922	4,573
Unknown-Age- White	185	184	140	164	139	100	89	108	100	74	76
Unknown-Age- Black	781	745	762	651	620	630	590	638	570	414	453
Unknown-Age- Other	10	7	6	8	3	4	4	4	7	3	1
Unknown-Age Unknown-Race		4,787	4,923	4,579	4,229	4,113	3,970	4,117	3,997	3,995	4,673
Unknown-Age- Hispanic									53	37	25
Unknown-Age- Not-Hispanic	4,755								175	164	204
Unknown-Age- Unknown- Ethnicity									2,156	2,569	3,148
Total	22,107	28,338	28,236	25,896	24,465	23,016	21,531	21,330	23,798	24,196	27,424

