CRJ 236 Juvenile Justice Admin S21 Prof. M. Sánchez

LP 02/15 – Wk. 5 – Characteristics of Juvenile Offenders

DEV: 4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel. 5 For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth.
6 From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb.
I will ever praise you. Psalm 71:4-6

EXAM 1 – Wk. 5 MON. (02/22) @ 11:00 am – Ch.1-3; ***Exam Study Guide*** *posted tonight, will be in Lessons Section of E-360. Be on-time, ready to test using your phone (Zoom access) and a computer (E360 test questions).*

Lesson Goal: Ch. 3 Characteristics of Juvenile Offenders

DEF: *Behavioral profiles* – are descriptions of youth based on delinquent activities which are not necessarily recorded because *no arrest or judicial action took place*.

Why are *behavioral profiles* important? Behavioral profiles refer to records of youthful offenders that are formally processed within courts but were not processed as criminal offenses in the criminal justice system. "Studies have established that the number of youthful offenders who *formally* enter the justice network is small in comparison with the total number of violations committed by juveniles" (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2009).

Is establishing a crime complicated in juvenile delinquency? In juvenile delinquency, establishing youthful offending has always taken into consideration the factors that might impact the crime.

Elements of a Crime

An individual *commits a crime* if he or she acts in a way that fulfills *every element of an offense*. ***The statute*** establishing the offense also establishes the elements of the offense. In general, every crime involves three elements: **first,** the act or conduct ("*actus reus*"); **second,** the individual's mental state at the time of the act ("*mens rea*"); and **third,** the *causation* between the act and the effect (typically either "proximate causation" or "but-for causation"). ***In a criminal prosecution***, the government has the burden of proof to establish every element of a crime beyond a reasonable doubt. (Legal Information Institute, 2021)

Reference

Legal Information Institute (2021). *Elements of a crime*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Law School. Retrieved from https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/criminal_law

What are factors? Factors are forces or dynamics correlated (not direct causes) to an outcome?

VIDEO: Adult Crime, Adult Time: The Jacob Ind Story - 4:00 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTzEThnv-vk
How do the ***risk factors*** in the Jacob Ind story/his life influence your thinking about his *sentence*?

A consistent tension in the analysis of behavior is *impact of nature vs. nurture*?

DEF: Socialization Process: The collection of social influences found in family, friends, institutions and the media which shape the values and behavior of individuals and groups.

Social science concept: *Multiplying* effect is called *comorbidity*

Factor 1	X	Factor 2	=	End Effect/ Outcome

DEF: Comorbidity: the presence of multiple diseases or disorders in a particular individual.
Examples: alcoholism/ drug addiction, alcoholism/depression, abuse/bipolar disorder

1. The idea of *co*morbidity raises the awareness that both factors are present and *together have a* ***multiplying*** effect and contribute to negative behavior, health and diminished quality of life.
2. Comorbidity ***does not*** mean one factor causes the other. Alcoholism → violent behavior = abuse

Juvenile Delinquency
Risk Categories

1. Individual, **2.** Family, **3.** School, **4.** Peers, **5.** Community, (*JJ*, p. 41-2).

Factors related* to above *Risk Categories (p. 41-2)

Individual (the Youth) factors	**Family – factors impacting children**
Teen parenthood	Parental behavior/criminality
Gun possession	Poor parental supervision
Early onset of aggression/ violence	Child victimization and maltreatment
Poor refusal skills	Young motherhood
Life Stressors	Family violence
Early sexual involvement	Low parent education level
Mental disorder/health problem	Maternal depression

VIDEO: Jake Evans Confession, Kills Mother and Sister – 2:56 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTzEThnv-vk
"The Prevent Delinquency Project" – Organization to counter juvenile delinquency (*JJ*, p. 44).
http://www.preventdelinquency.org – View tabs: About us, Child Threat, links to other organizations.
What is the *target group*/ group expected to be impacted by this information?

VIDEO: 1993 Murder of James Bulger (2yo) in the UK – 30:59 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftlAXAqHCPI

1. *What factors can you identify are related to* the Bulger murder, and the behaviors of the offending youth?
2. Should these factors *impact the judge's dispensations* for the offenders?

Data on School Violence – Center for Disease Control (CDC)
https://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/youthviolence/index.html

GQ: Explore a category of youth violence in the left tab search column
What *patterns* to the data on violence does your group identify?