



I30 Adolescents and Crime

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The goal of this presentation is to present the solution for children in conflict with law, by analyzing socio-economic features, style of crime, characteristics of the family, and the reasons of the juvenile delinquency.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by underlining the importance of rehabilitation of children in conflict and giving recommendations for the treatment that children in these situations need.

Introduction: Childhood and adolescence are rapid development cycles. Adolescents may not be aware of the meaning and the result of their behaviors because of their rapid biological and psychological fluctuations. Due to this agitated cycle, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every human being below the age of eighteen years is considered a child, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. Therefore, any crime that they commit is assessed by this rule. The most important attribution that allocates child crime than adult crime is that childhood contains the adolescence which is considered a problematic or alternation cycle. The crime that is committed must be evaluated in the developmental period which the human being is in.

Some theories show that in adolescent criminal behavior, genetic, psychiatric, and psychological problems are important and at the current time it is believed that environmental factors play a more important role.

In recent years, the incidences of juvenile delinquency increases day-by-day. In Turkey, the incidence of juvenile delinquency is progressing rapidly. In order to understand when an action becomes crime known the component of crime, reasons of crime, and punishable situations, because all the actions must be considered within these parameters. The crime theory explains which behaviors are against the law and called crimes and which are not. Since juvenile delinquency is a social problem, there is an urgent need to find solutions to make a healthy society.

Material and Methods: The sample consisted of 121 children and adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 who entered in the Turkish forensic system as children in conflict with the law between the years 2008 to 2011. All of the children were given psychological evaluations and all the data relating to these children and adolescents were taken from the reports of the court's psychologist.

Results: Of the 121 children included in this study, 89 (73.75%) are males and 32 (26.5%) female. Twenty-three (19%) of all children are between 12 to 14 years, 98 (80.1%) of them are between 15 to 17 years. In females the average age was 15.18 years. In males, this number was 15.93 years. Of all of the offenses, 92 (76%) were crimes against property and 29 (24%) were crimes against persons.

Conclusion: Previous studies considered children between the ages 16 to 17. In this paper 80.1% of the children were between the ages 15 to 17. These data are consistent with the literature. In this paper, 73.5% of the children in conflict with the law are male. It is possible that more boys become involved with the forensic system than girls because boys are more likely to spend time out of the home and out of family control.

A weakness of this study is the fact that all of the subjects came from one specific geographical region and court.

Juvenile Delinquency, Children in Conflict With Law, Child